

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

**Patriots look like champions once again**

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Patriots wide receiver David Givens

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2005

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# 1st AD gets notice of likely return to Iraq

Some soldiers say orders warn of new deployment Page 3

**Coming home is twice as nice**

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Sgt. David Becker of the 67th Combat Support Hospital greets his 2-month-old twins, Megan, left, and Melissa. Becker has just completed back-to-back deployments — four months in the Republic of Georgia followed by nine months in Iraq. About 150 67th CSH soldiers who had staffed the hospital in Mosul returned home Tuesday to Würzburg, Germany. The rest of the unit, which had been in Tikrit, is due back later this week.



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

## STARS &amp; STRIPES

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**U.S. sanctions against China:** The Bush administration has quietly applied new sanctions against eight Chinese companies for helping Iran with its missile programs, the White House spokesman said Tuesday.

Administration officials confirmed a report in The New York Times that said the State Department had served notice to the Chinese firms early this month. A North Korean company also was penalized.

The sanctions prohibit the companies from doing business in the United States, and ban them from obtaining licenses that allow them to export or obtain a patent for American technologies.

**Statens Island ferry crash:** Michael Gansas, the pilot at the helm of the Staten Island ferry that crashed into a pier in 2003, angrily blamed himself for the wreck that killed 11 and injured dozens, according to documents released Tuesday by federal investigators.

The information about the pilot was provided in the testimony of Patrick Ryan, the city's director of ferry operations, who now is being prosecuted for his alleged role in the crash. Ryan told probes that he rushed to the scene of the Oct. 15, 2003, crash, where he met ferry pilot Richard Smith.

"Patty, I'm sorry, I blacked out. It's all my fault. I killed all these people," Smith told Ryan, according to the director's testimony.

**Avalanche rescue effort:** After four days of searching a 16-acre debris field in Park City, Utah, rescue crews ended their large-scale probe for victims of last week's powerful avalanche.

Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said chances were good that the avalanche near Park City, about 20 miles east of Salt Lake City, trapped only one person.

Monday was the last day searchers would gather in large numbers.

A limited search will continue, but bigger groups won't scale the mountain again unless authorities receive a credible tip that someone is missing.

## World

**Uzbek terror trial:** Six people went on trial in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent on Tuesday on suspicion of involvement in deadly attacks last year that the government blamed on Islamic radicals.

The two women and four men are being tried in the Tashkent City Court on charges of terrorism and extremism and could be sentenced to death if convicted, court officials said.

Uzbek authorities have jailed more than 100 people in connection with the two waves of explosions and attacks last spring and summer, which killed more than 50 people. The U.S. and Israeli embassies were among the targets.

**Iran nuclear suspicions:** The U.N. nuclear watchdog agency is pushing for a fresh look at an Iranian military complex linked by the United States to possible atomic arms research just days after being granted limited access, diplomats said Tuesday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is interested in testing another part of the



**Iran illegal summons:** Iranian Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi, speaks with media during a press conference Monday in Tehran, Iran. In a rare admission of fault, Iran's judiciary conceded Tuesday that a Revolutionary Court summons for Ebadi was illegal and said the matter would be dropped. But judiciary spokesman Jamal Karimzadeh denied Ebadi's statement that Iran holds detainees in solitary confinement. Ebadi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003, defied the Revolutionary Court on Sunday when she refused to obey a summons that asked her to appear without giving a reason.

sprawling Parchin complex just outside Tehran in its search for radiation that could point to such research, the diplomats said.

The request by the Vienna, Austria-based IAEA comes just days after its inspectors were given partial access to the site and were allowed to take environmental samples for analysis in the agency's European laboratories.

**Ukraine election:** Ukraine's Supreme Court paved the way Tuesday for the inauguration of Western-leaning reformer Viktor Yushchenko in a ruling issued while it still considers an appeal by the Kremlin-favored losing candidate.

Representatives of former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who filed the appeal, denounced the decision as politically biased and warned it would undermine Ukraine's stability and aggravate tensions.

The court, responding to a motion by Yushchenko's camp, ruled that the results of the presidential election could be published in two government newspapers — a precondition for the inauguration.

**Kuwait extremists:** At least 20 Kuwaiti and Saudi men have been arrested and are being interrogated about deadly clashes between police and Islamic fundamentalists earlier this month, an Interior Ministry official said.

Kuwait has been pursuing extremists since two deadly shootings with fundamentalists this month. Kuwait, a major ally of Washington since the 1991 Persian Gulf War that freed it from Iraqi occupation, has struggled with extremists opposed to U.S. forces in the country as well as the invasion

of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein almost two years ago.

Twenty to 25 Kuwaiti and Saudi men are in custody — up from 15 detainees reported on Monday by the Interior Minister — and are being questioned about the clashes, according to an interior ministry official who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

**Pakistan bombing suspects:** Police on Tuesday arrested three brothers for allegedly harboring suspected suicide bombers who later made an attempt on the life of Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

The suspects, alleged members of the Islamic militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed, were identified as Abdul Moim, Abdul Basit and Nisar.

Chaudhry Ifthikhar, the chief of police in Rawalpindi, a city near the capital, said the three were nabbed in their home village in Attock, a district to the west, where the attack was launched July 30 as Aziz campaigned for a by-election, weeks before he took office. Aziz escaped unhurt but nine other bystanders were killed.

**Zimbabwe abuse allegations:** A British newspaper reported Tuesday that it had received fresh evidence of human rights abuses in Zimbabwe by pro-government supporters ahead of parliamentary elections.

The Guardian daily said photographs taken by an activist show evidence of intimidation and violence against opposition figures.

It published one of the pictures, showing a woman with burns who was reportedly doused in paraffin and set alight.

The Zimbabwean High Commission in London dismissed the claims in The Guardian story. "It's a highly opinionated article which doesn't contain any facts at all," said Godfrey Magwenzi, the deputy high commissioner.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



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# 1st AD warned of 'likely return to Iraq'

By TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — It's back to Iraq for America's last armored division.

The Wiesbaden-based 1st Armored Division received its "decent warning orders" last week, according to soldiers at Baumholder, home to the division's 2nd Brigade and its Division Artillery.

Several sources told Stars and Stripes that a call-up could be imminent. The division could deploy sometime between Nov. 1, 2005, and mid-January, 2006. In addition, a stop-loss order will go into effect Aug. 1 for the division, according to sources.

Warning orders are informal notifications alerting personnel they could be deployed.

"Units were notified; soldiers were notified in order to let families know" that the 1st AD might deploy to Iraq, said a 1st AD official who asked not to be identified.

Division officials expect formal deployment orders to come this week from the Department of Defense, said U.S. Army officials in Germany. It is possible, though unlikely, units could receive warning orders, but never deploy.

The orders could affect as many as 10,000 soldiers at 11 1st AD bases across central Germany.

Most expected the warning order.

"It's not a big surprise," said 1st Sgt. Craig Copridge, with Company A, 2nd Bat-

## Official orders expected this week; 2nd deployment possible by late '05

alion, 6th Infantry Regiment at Baumholder. The deployment to Iraq, if it happens, will be the third for Copridge, who went in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 as a sergeant and to Operation Iraqi Freedom in June 2003.

"I'm looking forward to it," Copridge said. "I just became the first sergeant, and taking the company into combat is always interesting."

Not everyone shares his enthusiasm. "Four-two-seven took (the news) hard," said the wife of a 4th Battalion, 27th Artillery Regiment noncommissioned officer, who asked not to be identified. "It was very emotional at the (Family Readiness Group) meeting," she said, declining to comment further.

On April 29, 2003, Company C, 4-27, lost eight men in a car bomb attack, the single largest loss the division suffered during its first OIF deployment from April 2003 through July 2004.

Most of the people interviewed by Stars and Stripes rated the Army as good in keeping soldiers and officers informed about what changes before they happen.

"It helped people, helped the families to hear [the warning order] firsthand instead

of hearing it on the news," said Julie Gowel, whose husband, 1st Lt. Dave Gowel, is executive officer for Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade. "The Army is good about telling you what you need to know."

She added that it was clear the 1st AD was likely to be sent back to Iraq just because there isn't enough of the Army to go around.

All of the Army's 10 active-duty divisions have deployed at least once to either Iraq or Afghanistan since 2001, as has nearly every National Guard and Reserve unit. Some units have deployed twice.

Several soldiers told Stars and Stripes they thought it would be easier the second time. The 1st AD would return to Iraq with substantial experience.

"Obviously, we don't know where we're going," Copridge said. "But based on what we learned that 15 months, we'll have a pretty good idea of what to expect."

The division's area of responsibility covered a huge swath of Baghdad during most of the first deployment, with soldiers and officers dividing their time between three main missions — raids, helping organize local governments and rebuilding efforts.

After the division was extended April 16, some units moved to southern Iraq, where they helped route Shiite militias after Iraqi security forces proved ineffectual.

The 1st AD is one of two divisions forward based in Germany. The other, the 1st Infantry Division based at Würzburg, currently has most of its units in Iraq, with the bulk of troops slated to return to Germany after general elections in Iraq, scheduled for Jan. 30.

Coping with long deployments is one of the biggest challenges for military families.

Gowel said she stayed in Baumholder for the first deployment, but she plans to return to her family in Boston for what she expects to be another year apart.

"There's something to be said for being around people who're going through what you're going through," Gowel said of remaining in Baumholder. "It takes away the pity factor. You can't go around saying, 'Oh, wow is me!' The people around you are all in the same boat."

Going home won't be "better or worse, just different," she said. "I just don't want to do the same thing, and I felt like I missed a lot of stuff — weddings, family and career opportunities — the first time."

The old saying among Army families is that it's easier to leave than to be left behind. Gowel said. If both leave, maybe it'll be a little easier with neither left behind, she added.

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## Naples sailors get opportunity to show off new test uniforms

By SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Milan, Paris. New York. Naval Support Activity Naples?

OK, so the conference room of the Capo Tower doesn't have a famous catwalk, and the clothing isn't quite *haute couture*. But it was a bit of fashion nonetheless for Petty Officer 2nd Class Shonta Prince, who volunteered to test-wear samples of what could become the new Navy service uniform.

"Anything that has to do with fashion, I'm there," said the 24-year-old information systems technician stationed at Naval Support Activity Naples as she strutted in her polyester-wool blend gray blouse and black skirt at the Capote Tower conference room on Tuesday.

NSA Naples, along with 11 other

Navy facilities worldwide, are the test sites for the new uniform prototypes. About 600 sailors from around the world will be testing service and utility uniforms for durability, comfort, ease and overall appearance.

Naples sailors are testing the service uniforms.

"I like them already. Look, pants that actually fit," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Alyson Gaytor, a petite 22-year-old, size 4 or 6 air traffic controller who still shops for clothing in the kiddie/teen section.

Each of the 12 Navy test sites has ponied up about 50 sailors who make up what's been dubbed, "Task Force Uniform" to decide the new uniforms for E-6s and below.

For the next six months, the sailors will take notes on a number of options, such as whether they prefer the 75 percent polyester/25 percent wool, hand washable uni-

forms over the 55 percent/45 percent dry-clean-only combination; whether they would rather have rating badges on their sleeves or on their collars; and if they'd rather wear the gray blouse/black bottom combination over the khaki/black look.

Participants will give their opinions in two Web-based surveys, one midway through the six-month trial period and one at the end, said Ken Jackson, a textile technologist for Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility in Natick, Mass.

After a small fashion show Thursday of the new uniform designs, sailors at Naval Station Rota, Spain, will start test-wearing the utility versions next week, said base spokeswoman Lt. Allie Freeman. About 50 Rota sailors will test four proposed designs, including two sets with digitally created camouflage and two sets with standard markings.

"It fits pretty good," Petty Officer 2nd Class Jermaine Kelley, 25, said moments after stepping into his gray-black service uniform. The postal clerk at Naples said he digs the color. "It takes some getting used to, but I think it fits the Navy better. Our ships are gray."

Comfort is key for Petty Officer 2nd Class Caleb Hunter, 24, who also gave an initial approval.

"I haven't had it on long, but it seems comfortable, more comfortable than [our current uniforms] so far," said the aviation machinist mate. "The [gray] color is right, but we care more for comfortability, not color."

Staff writer Ben Murray contributed to this report from Rota, Spain.

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PHOTOS BY SANDRA JONTZ/Stars & Stripes

Above: Ken Jackson, left, a textile technologist with the Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility in Massachusetts, checks the waistline on Petty Officer 2nd Class Jermaine Kelley, 25 and a postal clerk at Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy. Below: Petty Officer 1st Class Marilyn Golegani, a Naples culinary specialist, got her black polyester/wool blend skirt hemmed. Over the next six-months, about 600 sailors from around the world will be testing out new service and utility uniforms.



## Bamberg community bazaar set for February

BAMBERG, Germany — The annual Bazaar With Heart takes place Feb. 11-13 at the Basics Building on Warner Barracks in Bamberg.

The bazaar, run by the Bamberg Spouses and Civilians Club, will be from 9:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 11; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 12; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 13. A total of 39 vendors will be offering their wares.

Proceeds from the bazaar go back into the community for such things as scholarships and donations to schools and youth sports.

Only military identification card holders with status of forces dependent privileges may purchase items at the bazaar.

Because of space constraints, no baby strollers are allowed inside the bazaar.

For more information, call Stephanie Bacon at 0951-302-8039 or e-mail her at: stephanie.bacon@us.army.mil.

From staff reports

# Würzburg hospital team home from Iraq

By STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Little Megan and Melissa Becker dozed quietly in their mother Annette's arms, ignoring the hubbub around them as only 2-month-old babies can do.

After a brief ceremony, the girls and their mother rushed through a crowd of reuniting families from the 67th Combat Support Hospital.

Annette Becker searched the sea of faces until she saw the one she wanted: Sgt. David Becker, home finally after back-to-back deployments of four months in the Republic of Georgia followed by nine months in Iraq.

Becker scooped up his two little girls, holding one in each arm.

He kissed first one, then the other, on the tops of their heads.

"It's been hectic, stressful — definitely stressful," Becker said of his long deployment. "I'm just glad it's over."

Becker was one of about 150 67th CSH soldiers who arrived home to Würzburg, on Tuesday, most of them after a dangerous yearlong tour in Mosul, Iraq. About 200 more of the unit's soldiers are due back by week's end.

The reunion took far longer than expected. Families had been expecting the reunion every day since Saturday.

"It was the longest weekend of the whole year," said Christine Framstad, who brought her three children — ages 8, 5 and 16 months — to greet their dad, Maj. Mark Framstad, who is an anesthesiologist. "We made it! It's nice to have it over."

The 67th CSH's Mosul contingent endured a difficult deployment. Three times the hospital was under rocket attacks scored direct hits on its building at Camp Marez. And the medics handled a staggering 91 casualties at once a few days before Christmas when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the middle of the base's chow hall.

The troops had been in transit from



**Capt. Michelle Stewmon, a combat nurse, holds her 6-year-old son Logan at the 67th Combat Support Hospital's homecoming Tuesday. Stewmon's husband, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Stewmon of the 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, served with the first rotation of troops in Iraq, while she deployed with the second group. This is their first extended period of time together in almost two years.**

Mosul since late Sunday.

Families had gathered about 5 a.m. in the temporary "reunion" building near the helipad at Würzburg's Leighton Barracks, holding signs, flowers and balloons while children frolicked in a makeshift play area in one corner of the tent.

But due to a series of delays, the troops and their families weren't reunited until shortly after 11 a.m.

Mary Swink brought her 3-year-old colic mix, Winston, to greet his "doggy daddy," Sgt. 1st Class Andy Swink. She tied "I Love You" balloons to a harness on Winston's back.

She said nothing in her 3½ years of marriage prepared her for such a long separation. She coped by traveling to see family, and with visits from her grown children.

"It's enough to be the single parent of a dog," she said. "I can't even imagine how



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

**Soldiers from the 67th Combat Support Hospital stand in formation as they wait for their first glimpse of loved ones. About 150 soldiers from the unit returned home to Würzburg, Germany, Tuesday after a yearlong deployment to Iraq.**

moms do this with little ones."

Capt. Michelle Stewmon and her husband, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Brian Stewmon, know something about single parenting. Brian Stewmon spent 11 months in Iraq in 2003 as an AH-60 Apache Longbow pilot, then played parental tag with their three children as his wife, a combat nurse, deployed for 11 months with the 67th CSH.

"They've been apart 22 of the past 23 months, but Tuesday's reunion proved especially sweet. It fell on the 13th birthday of their daughter, Erika, and one day after

Michelle's birthday.

"It's like a dream to me. It's finally happened. Too good to be true," Michelle Stewmon said.

After troops and families exchanged hugs and kisses in the reunion tent for about 20 minutes, Col. Mary Clark, the Mosul hospital commander, grabbed a microphone and pronounced an end to the 67th CSH's job in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Job accomplished, OIF over," she said. "Mission complete."

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## 'Stan' nations meet in Germany to discuss drugs, terrorism

By CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — The five "Stans" — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — aren't new as neighbors but they are new at working together.

The young democracies, established after the former Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, are strategically located: to their south are Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran; to their east, China; and to their north, Russia. Including Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Stans area is about three-fourths the size of the continental United States with a population of 230 million.

Last week, leaders from the five countries met at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies to discuss fighting terrorism and stopping drug trafficking. Also on the agenda were causes of instability in the region and the roles of security forces.

"There are long-term problems that won't lend themselves to easy and quick solutions," said Army Lt. Gen. David Barno, com-



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

**Army Lt. Gen. David Barno, commander of Combined Forces Command in Afghanistan, gives closing remarks Thursday at the Central and South Asian States Regional Security Conference in Garmisch, Germany.**

mander of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, which organized the conference along with the Marshall Center.

"[They] need to look at the whole picture, not the one-country-at-a-time picture," Barno said.

The Marshall Center was founded in 1993 by the U.S. and German Defense departments and hosts conferences and classes designed to help former Soviet-bloc nations establish their independence.

More than 90 delegates — most-

ly defense and foreign affairs ministers, diplomats and their deputies — came to the conference. Remarks were translated into English, Russian and Dari and kept off the record so delegates could speak freely.

Representatives from Afghanistan and Pakistan also attended.

It was hoped the meetings would help the nations move past historical divisions and think as a region, according to Roger D. Kangas, who holds a doctorate and is professor of Central Asian Studies at the center.

"If there was a lesson of the 1990s, it was that ignoring Afghanistan and its internal problems was a mistake," said Kangas, referring to the rise of the hard-line Taliban regime and the al-Qaida group that took refuge in the country. "Right now, we have a second chance to get it right."

"We need to move from discussion to real action. If we're going to do a counter-terrorism center or counter-narcotics center, where would it be located, how would it be financed, what activities would it perform, who would it engage?"

Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of poppy, the plant from which heroin is made. But more than half of Afghanistan's heroin is transferred through the Stans on its way to dealers and users in the West, according to Lt. Col. Thomas Mergel of the German army and the Marshall Center.

"And transfer countries become consumer countries," Mergel said.

One suggestion that came out of the conference, he said, was for nations to assign liaison officers to work with each other to address drug trafficking.

The group had met twice before, in March 2003 in Kyrgyzstan and February 2004 in Uzbekistan. This, however, was the first time that Afghanistan and Pakistan were invited.

"The time was simply not right to invite them [before]," Mergel said. "But they are facing the same problems, so they should be part of the solution."

"You want to make progress, so it's not time to exclude a single country."

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# Iraq to seal its borders during elections

## Suicide bombing at Shiite party's office kills 2; abducted archbishop freed after a day

By BASSEM MROUE  
The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — Iraq will seal its borders, extend a curfew and restrict movement to protect voters during the Jan. 30 elections, officials announced Tuesday after the latest major insurgent attack — a suicide bombing that killed two people outside the offices of a leading Shiite political party.

President Bush spoke Tuesday morning with Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, and Jordan's King Abdullah, the latest in a series of conversation between world leaders on Iraq's efforts to ensure maximum participation in the election.

Amid the insurgent campaign to ruin the vote, a Catholic archbishop was kidnapped by gunmen in the northern city of Mosul was released Tuesday, a day after his abduction. The Vatican had called his abduction a "terrorist act."

Elsewhere, the U.S. command reported a Task Force Baghdad soldier was killed Tuesday in a roadside bombing. It gave no further details.

Also, a third American died in fighting in Iraq's troubled Anbar province, west of Baghdad, the military said Tuesday. Two others assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force also were killed in action there Monday.

The military gave no other details and it was unclear whether the three troops were killed in a suicide car bombing in the western city of Ramadi that U.S. officials said resulted in American casualties.

A video surfaced Tuesday showing eight Chinese construction workers held hostage by gunmen claiming the men are employed by a company working with U.S. troops, in the latest abduction of foreigners in Iraq. China's official Xinhua News Agency said diplomats were "making all efforts to rescue" the hostages.

The men from China's southern Fujian province went missing last week while traveling to Jordan, Xinhua said.

Tuesday's suicide car bombing in Baghdad gouged a crater in the pavement outside the offices of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a main contender in the election.

The Shiite party, known as SCIRI, has close ties to Iran and is strongly opposed by Sunni Muslim militants.

The assailant took guards at a checkpoint leading to the party's office that was part of SCIRI's security staff, and he detonated his



AP photos

**Above:** A U.S. soldier treats an injury to an Iraqi at the scene of a suicide car bombing Tuesday outside the offices of Iraq's largest Shiite political party, which killed two, police and the U.S. military said. Below: Basile Georges Casmosuwa, 66, the archbishop of the Syrian Catholic Church, center, is greeted Tuesday as he arrives back to the church in Mosul, 225 miles north of Baghdad. The archbishop, kidnapped in Iraq on Monday, was freed without any ransom being paid, a church official said.

bomb-laden car at the guard post when he was not allowed to enter, Iraqi police officials reported the bomber and two others were dead and nine people were injured, including three police.

"SCIRI will not be frightened by such an act," party spokesman Ridha Jawad said. "SCIRI will continue the march toward building Iraq, establishing justice and holding the elections."

Sunni Muslim militants, who make up the bulk of Iraq's insurgency, are increasingly leaning in on Shiites in their effort to ruin the election that is widely expected to propel their religious rivals to a position of dominance. Many Sunnis argue that security is precarious and the election should not take place under foreign occupation.

The Independent Electoral Commission announced that the country's international borders would be closed from Jan. 29 until Jan. 31, except for Muslim pilgrims returning from the hajj in Saudi Arabia.

Iraqis also will be barred from traveling between provinces and a nighttime curfew will be imposed during the same period, according to a statement from the commission's Farid Ayar.

Such measures had been expected because of the grave security threat. U.S. and Iraqi authorities are hoping to encourage a substantial turnout but fear that if most



Sunnis stay away from the polls, the legitimacy of the new government will be in doubt.

Iraq's interior minister warned that if the country's Sunni Arab minority bows to rebel threats and stays away from the polls, the nation could descend into civil war.

Falah Hassan al-Naqib, a Sunni, told reporters he expects Sunni insurgents to escalate attacks before the election, especially in the Baghdad area. Voters are to choose a new 275-member National Assembly.

"If any group does not participate in the elections, it will constitute treason," al-Naqib said, adding that "boycotting the elections

will not produce a National Assembly that represents the Iraqi people" but will cause "a civil war that will divide the country."

Allawi said he will boost the country's armed forces with 70,000 more troops in an effort to take over more security tasks from U.S.-led forces. He said the forces would be "equipped with the most advanced weapons."

In Mosul, Syrian Catholic Archbishop Basile Georges Casmosuwa was freed a day after he was seized near his church, according to local officials and the Vatican.

"I'm happy to have returned to the bishop's office," Casmosuwa told Vatican Radio. "I can say that I wasn't mistreated."

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,366 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,071 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan report one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,228 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 962 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- A soldier who injured Sunday when his vehicle flipped into a canal in western Baghdad died on Monday.

- Three servicemen were killed in Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by military:

- Army Sgt. Nathaniel T. Swadlow, 24, New York, died Saturday in Mosul, Iraq, from a noncombat injury; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

He did not identify his captors but said he did not believe his kidnapping was meant as an attack on the church. Earlier, the Catholic news agency MISNA reported that the 66-year-old archbishop's captors demanded a \$200,000 ransom. Contributor Siran Salahaddin reported this to this report.

# Two political candidates assassinated in southern Iraq

**BAGHDAD** — Assassins in southern Iraq gunned down two candidates running in the Jan. 30 elections for the political coalition of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a member of the group said Tuesday.

Alaa Hamid, who was running on Allawi's slate for candidates for the 275-member National Assembly, was shot dead Monday in the southern port city of Basra in front of his family, a member of Allawi's Iraqi Na-

tional Accord said. Hamid was also the deputy chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee in Basra.

The other slain candidate was Riad Radi, who was running in the local race for Basra's provincial council on a list supported by Allawi's INC, the official said on condition of anonymity. Masked gunmen fired on his car Sunday as he was driving with his family, the official said.

Sunni Muslim militants who oppose holding the elections have warned candidates not to run. With less than two weeks until the vote, many candidates haven't even announced they're running for fear of attack.

Basra, a predominantly Shiite Muslim city, has been relatively calm in recent weeks. In central Iraq, meanwhile, there have been numerous attacks on polling offices in the past days.

There was violence in Basra on Sunday, as insurgents fired four mortar rounds at schools slated to serve as polling centers.

In Baghdad Monday, masked gunmen shot dead another candidate, Shaker Jabbar Sahla, a Shiite Muslim who was running in the National Assembly election for the Constitutional Monarchy Movement. The party is headed by Sharif Ali bin Hussein, a cousin of Iraq's last king.

# Soldiers learning to expect the unexpected

## Even distributing election materials gets complicated after a few minutes



JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars and Stripes

Above: Capt. Kevin Capozzoli, commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry, questions an Iraqi laborer about Monday's shooting of a Company A soldier Monday near Ramadi.

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO  
Stars and Stripes

TAMIM, Iraq — Many of the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq find themselves wearing a number of different helmets during any single day. Any mission may start out according to plan but take an entirely new direction a few minutes later.

While their official job title may be infantryman or supply specialist, troops find themselves working as election boosters, detectives and medics all during the same shift.

On Monday morning, soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry — a unit that deployed from South Korea with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division — planned to hand out election information and paste up posters encouraging Iraqis to vote.

Before they could get started, though, a radio call came in that one of the company's soldiers had been shot and wounded while manning an observation post near Ramadi. The soldiers with the election material turned into a quick reaction force, converging on where the shooting occurred.

The wounded soldier, who was shot in the hip, was evacuated to an aid station near Ramadi, where he was later reported in stable condition.

The other soldiers rounded up a group of young Iraqi men working nearby. "We just got shot at. Where did the shots come from?" Capt. Kevin Capozzoli, Company A commander, asked each of the men through an interpreter.

Capozzoli questioned each member of the group individually; each pleaded ignorance. Finally, two of the young men admitted to hearing the shot and seeing three men leaving a nearby building right after the incident.

"Sometimes this is almost like police work," Capozzoli said. "These guys were right here, they heard the shot. But they're either afraid to tell us, or they know and they don't want to tell us."

### Union delegates

Earlier in the day, the soldiers escorted a pair of U.S. civilian contractors to a police station in Baghdad to offer police leaders a developmental course. The contractors, who work for private firms hired by the Pentagon to retrain the Iraqi police, were instead questioned by the police about pay.

The cops had not been paid for weeks, and the police chief reported that his men would walk off the job if they weren't paid in two days. The contractors and soldiers explained they had nothing to do with their pay, but promised to ask again.

### A closer look

The previous night, Company A soldiers learned that in Iraq, two plus two sometimes does equal five.

While on a night patrol through the streets of Tamim — a section of Ramadi just across the river from downtown — the soldiers heard a burst of heavy gunfire from within the town. They investigated and found that a group of gunmen had fired on an Iraqi police station; the police had returned fire but hit nothing.

According to the police, two or three men in a maroon sedan had fired at the station, then fled into a nearby neighborhood. The soldiers got back into their Humvees, turned a few corners and — to their surprise — found three men in a maroon sedan.

Everything seemed to add up. It was the right number of men, acting strangely, out after curfew in a vehicle that matched the description given by police. The soldiers questioned the men and wiped them down with swabs to test for gunpowder residue on their hands and faces, which would indicate they'd recently fired weapons. But there was none.

A few other soldiers searched the house where the men said they lived. Inside, they found an assault rifle and ammo. A teenage boy inside excitedly showed them pictures of a shot-up BMW, none of the soldiers were sure why.

But after at least 30 minutes, much pantomiming, and attempts at breaking the language barrier, one of the men produced a weapon's permit issued by Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry. They were bodyguards for a local sheik and had been granted permission to carry the weapon. One of the men pulled out a cellular phone and called the sheik.

After a little more discussion and a call to headquarters to check the men's names, the soldiers handed out tip-line phone numbers and asked the men to report any suspicious activity.

"Everything pointed at these being the guys," Capozzoli said. "If they'd come up positive for gunpowder, we'd have taken them in."

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### British soldier admits abusing Iraqi prisoner

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A British soldier pleaded guilty Tuesday to one count of beating an Iraqi captive, while he and two others pleaded not guilty to all other charges as their court-martial opened on allegations they mistreated Iraqis.

Photos of alleged mistreatment published in a British newspaper in spring 2003 led to investigations against the three men, and it is the first case of alleged abuse of Iraqis by British soldiers to go to court.

As the court-martial opened, Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, pleaded guilty to battery for assaulting and beating an Iraqi in his custody. But he pleaded not guilty to indecent conduct for allegedly forcing two Iraqi detainees to undress in front of others. Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, and Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, 25, pleaded not guilty to all charges.

From The Associated Press



Capt. Colin Williams, left, and 1st Lt. Ed Kaspar chat over a cup of coffee in the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery's new coffee shop at a U.S. base in Ramadi, Iraq, on Sunday.

BY JOE GIORDANO/Stars and Stripes

## From mortar to mocha — almost

### Bare-bones coffeehouse in Iraq still bears marks of attack

BY JOSEPH GIORDANO

Stars and Stripes

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE RAMADI, Iraq** — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment have taken a near tragedy and turned it into a steaming cup of comfort.

In late October, shortly after the battalion arrived in Ramadi with the rest of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team from South Korea, a single mortar round slammed into the roof of a concrete building in their headquarters compound.

The mortar, which struck in the middle of the day, tore a gaping hole in the concrete and sent shrapnel spraying into the walls.

"Every door around here was blown open, except for the one in my office, which was already open," said 1st Lt. Ed Kaspar, recalling the attack.

Out of sheer luck, nobody was inside the building — which was used as the battalion's logistics office — when the round struck. Smoke poured from the room, soldiers recalled, and everything inside the office was destroyed.

For weeks, the office sat vacant. But now, the battalion has turned it into what might be the best-stocked coffeehouse on a U.S. base in Iraq — complete with a natural "skylight" where the mortar round hit.

Inside is a trio of salvaged leather chairs, a table

made from a wooden cable spool and a bar fashioned out of plywood. Scores of coffee packets, tea bags, coffee pots, grinders and other accessories line a pair of shelves built into the walls. A compact disc player with small speakers plays music, and a shelf above the door is piled with books.

The coffee is largely provided by soldiers who receive it in care packages from the States. The coffeehouse, like so many other small touches that U.S. servicemen have dreamed up on bases throughout Iraq, is meant to give soldiers a break from the reality of their missions. It's a far cry from an upscale coffee bar back home, but it does its job, soldiers said.

"We're getting about 15 people a day that come in here now, but once we really get it going and get some people in here, we'll open it up to the whole brigade," said Kaspar, a 32-year-old from Oxnard, Calif.

On Sunday afternoon, Capt. Colin Williams, a 28-year-old civil affairs officer from Owego, N.Y., stopped in for a cup of coffee. Drinking from a white mug emblazoned with the words "Operation Iraqi Freedom," Williams shot the breeze with the others for a few minutes, then went back to work.

If the soldiers get their wish, the budding coffeehouse could see more improvements. "We're hoping to get a sponsor to send us some good coffee," Kaspar said. "And our biggest hope is a cappuccino machine."

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# Reports forecast a grim future for post-election Iraq

By WARREN P. STROBEL,  
JONATHAN S. LANDAY  
AND JOHN WALCOTT  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**WASHINGTON** — A series of new U.S. intelligence assessments on Iraq paints a grim picture of the road ahead and concludes that there's little likelihood that President Bush's goals can be attained in the near future.

Instead of stabilizing the country, national elections Jan. 30 are likely to be followed by more violence and could provoke a civil war between majority Shiite Muslims and minority Sunni Muslims, the CIA and other intelligence agencies predict, according to senior officials who've seen the classified reports.

A CIA spokesman, Tom Crispell, said he was unable to comment. A White House spokeswoman had no immediate comment. The federal government was closed Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

A new public report by the National Intelligence Council concludes that instead of diminishing terrorism, U.S.-occupied Iraq has replaced prewar Afghanistan as breeding and training ground for terrorists who may disperse to conduct attacks elsewhere.

Two senior intelligence officials with access to classified reporting said Islamic militants alerted or inspired by Osama bin Laden were forging ties to Iraqi nationalists and remnants of former dictator Saddam Hussein's regime. The linkage is similar to the one that so-called "Afghan Arabs" formed with Afghanistan's Taliban regime after the Soviet Union withdrew from that country, they said.

The Bush administration claimed before invading Iraq that Saddam had strong ties to interna-

tional terrorism, but most counter-terrorism experts dispute that and no evidence has been found to support the claim.

"The sad thing is we have created what the administration claimed we were intervening to prevent, an Iraqi/al-Qaeda linkage," one of the senior intelligence officials said.

The officials who were more pessimistic spoke on condition of anonymity, because the latest intelligence assessments are classified and their views are at odds with public statements from the White House.

Even in their public remarks, top military officers and policy-makers are becoming more cautious about the road ahead in Iraq.

All major U.S. intelligence agencies share a pessimistic prognosis for Iraq's future, according to a senior administration official. The assessment of the State Department's intelligence bureau is so grim that it's referred to as the "I agree with Scowcroft's analysis" report.

That's a reference to retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, who was national security adviser to Bush's father, President George H.W. Bush.

Scowcroft said earlier this month that the Iraqi elections could deepen the conflict and "we may be seeing an incipient civil war." Bush and his national security team took issue with Scowcroft's remarks, but the pessimistic indicators have led a growing number of senior U.S. military and intelligence officials to say they worry that the mission in Iraq is becoming untenable for the American military.

The reports, also by the CIA and the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, were made and discussed at a recent U.S. intelligence community conference.

## A hero's welcome for former warlord

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

**HERAT, Afghanistan** — The heart of Herat came home to a hero's welcome Tuesday, with upward of 2,000 people and a small detachment of U.S. soldiers on hand to greet him.

"When he left for Kabul two months ago," Col. Randy Smith said of the send-off for Ismail Khan, "the crowd treated him like he was a rock star."

Smith, head of the Regional Command Area Group-West, had planned to drive south to Shindand with Maj. Gen. Abdul Wahab Walizada, who commands the Afghan National Army's 20th Corps. The two wanted to check the progress of some new Afghan recruits and their U.S. trainers.

But when word spread Monday night that Khan was returning to Herat to celebrate the Muslim festival of Eid, Walizada had to back out. While Khan has some detractors in western Afghanistan, he remains the most popular figure on this side of the country.

"You can see the crowd outside the airport," Afghan army Brig. Gen. Fazil Ahmad Sayar, the corps' chief of staff said through an interpreter. "They are ready for I.K."

That's how people in the region refer to Khan, a former warlord who, after some reluctance, agreed to support the transitional government. Khan now runs the Ministry of Water and Electricity in Kabul.

Smith and his men didn't come to provide security; the

ANA was taking care of that. They came to support Walizada, and possibly meet Khan.

A company of 120 Afghan soldiers managed to keep well-wishers at bay, allowing them to crowd around the perimeter of the tarmac.

Several of them clutched portraits and bumper stickers of their magnetic leader, a man who helped to drive the former Soviet Union out of Afghanistan.

"Long life for I.K.," one young follower repeatedly shouted as he led a group chant.

Off to the side stood a dozen young girls dressed in ceremonial outfits. They sang traditional Afghan songs, while elder women clad in burkas stood by like nervous stage mothers.

When Khan's airplane landed and taxied up to the terminal, the



KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

A group of Afghan girls sing in support of local hero Ismail Khan, a former warlord who now heads the Ministry of Water and Electricity, in his hometown of Herat on Tuesday.

men swarmed it. Confetti flew and the men jostled to get a better view. Before long, Khan was riding in a motorcade heading to his house for a weekend of celebration.

"I am hopeful for Afghanistan,"

Sayar said. "We are looking for a new generation to take the lead."

On this day, however, the youth were no match for a star named Khan.

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## IN THE WORLD

## U.N. meets to discuss tsunami aftermath

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY  
The Associated Press

KOBE, Japan — In the wake of an ocean wave that horrified an uneasy world, hundreds of U.N. conference delegates Tuesday got down to the business of finding ways to give man more of an edge in an age-old battle with the worst of nature.

"We must draw and act on every lesson we can," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told participants in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which opened with a moment of silence for more than 160,000 people killed in the Dec. 26 earthquake-tsunami that ravaged coasts across south Asia.

"The world looks to this conference to help make communities and nations more resilient in the face of natural disasters," Annan said in his videotaped message.

The first day's agenda for the five-day meeting focused on routes to resilience: by protecting such critical facilities as hospitals and power plants against damage; building earthquake-safe structures; and bolstering communications systems, among others.

The Japanese government announced it would refocus its foreign aid program to put more emphasis on disaster reduction.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, addressing the conference, also said his government would offer tsunami-warning training to countries struck by the powerful, earthquake-spawned wave that sped across the Indian Ocean last month.

An immediate conference goal is to lay the foundation for an Indian Ocean alert network like the one on guard for tsunamis in the Pacific. UNESCO is presenting a blueprint for a system of deep-water buoys, tide gauges and a regional alert center that would cost \$30 million and go into operation by mid-2006. Several sessions here will deal with the practicalities of the plan.

"Rarely has a tragedy made a conference so topical and timely as this one," Annan said.

His U.N. emergency coordinator, Jan Egelund, told reporters he hopes governments and U.N. agencies will make a "strong commitment" here to establish the Indian Ocean system. He also said he believed that over the next 10 years all vulnerable populations will be covered by advance warning systems.

Beyond the "hardware," Egelund said, children should be educated to the risks of disasters, hospitals, clinics and schools should be viewed as safe havens and built to withstand quakes, cyclones and other disasters; and all disaster-prone countries should adopt "action plans" to deal with the threats.



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi speaks to the U.N. World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, on Tuesday.

pitals, clinics and schools should be viewed as safe havens and built to withstand quakes, cyclones and other disasters; and all disaster-prone countries should adopt "action plans" to deal with the threats.

The conference has drawn some 4,000 delegates and other participants from 150 countries.

## U.N. lifts travel ban on aid workers in Indonesia

BY BURT HERMAN  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — The United Nations on Tuesday lifted a travel ban on aid workers in Indonesia's tsunami-battered Aceh province, the scene of a decades-long conflict between rebels and government forces that has raised concerns about the safety of relief efforts.

As aid work picked up speed in worst-hit Aceh province, even war-torn Afghanistan joined in the relief efforts, sending a 20-strong team including 12 military doctors who departed Kabul for Indonesia with medical equipment, blankets and dried fruit.

The United Nations imposed a 24-hour travel ban on its staff in parts of Aceh on Monday following reports that fighting had broken out between insurgents and the Indonesian army.

U.N. security consultant Werner Van den Berg said the world body decided not to renew the ban after speaking with Indonesian police in the

coastal city of Lhoksaumawe about reported fighting there.

Col. Nachrowi Djazairi, a spokesman for the Indonesian military in Banda Aceh, said he had received reports of a rebel attack on the road that apparently sparked Monday's fears, but had few further details.

The Free Aceh Movement rebels, who have been fighting for autonomy for the province since 1976, have dismissed Indonesian government allegations they would attack relief convoys to steal food for fighters.

Other aid groups and foreign troops helping in the mammoth relief effort in Aceh said they were working as normal, and a U.S. military spokesman said American forces did not believe the security situation had changed in recent days.

"We're coordinating our force protection measures with the Indonesian government and taking appropriate security measures," U.S. Marine Capt. Joe Pienler said. "We've been doing that since the start, it's nothing new."

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# Airbus unveils new superjumbo jetliner

BY LAURENCE FROST

The Associated Press

TOULOUSE, France — Airbus showed off its giant A380, a double-decked behemoth that could revolutionize long-haul flying, at a lavish ceremony Tuesday with European leaders gathered for the first official look at the world's largest passenger plane.

Airbus is betting its newfound status as the world's leading jet maker on the "superjumbo" that has an 262-foot wingspan, a tail as tall as a seven-story building and cost billion \$13 billion to develop.

The leaders of France, Britain, Germany and Spain — Airbus' government backers — and CEOs from the 14 airlines and freight transporters that have ordered A380s attended the elaborate ceremony at company headquarters in Toulouse, southwestern France.

"We may have reached for the stars ... but as far as the aeronautical industry is concerned we caught some of those stars," said German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who called the A380 a "triumph of European science and European engineering."

French President Jacques Chirac said "this veritable liner of the skies will mark aviation history," while British Prime Minister Tony Blair praised the A380 as the "only commercial plane designed from the



Airbus employees throw their caps in the air next to the new Airbus A380 on Tuesday after its unveiling ceremony, near Toulouse, southwestern France. The A380 double-decked superjumbo jet is the world's largest passenger plane.

outset to minimize the impact on the environment."

The show before almost 5,000 guests included music, clouds of dry ice and dancers in the A380 assembly hangar, one of the largest enclosed spaces in Europe.

The A380's launch seemed certain to be-

come a milestone in civil aviation history alongside the 747 and Concorde. Unlike the supersonic Concorde, however, whose claim to fame was how fast it crossed the Atlantic, this latest fruit of European aerospace cooperation will ultimately be judged on how fast it makes money.

Airbus already has 149 orders for the \$280 million plane, "which for a plane of this size that has not yet flown is an extraordinary commercial performance," CEO Noel Forgeard said.

Airbus says companies have options on dozens more and that the program will break even after 250 sales — an objective it hopes to reach within three years.

"At the end of the day, the A380 will be a very successful airplane," said Jon Ash, president of InterVISTAS-ga2, a Washington-based aviation consulting firm.

Ash said the A380 will be an enticing aircraft for carriers on long-haul, high-density markets, whereas the 747 will be a "viable alternative" to other carriers.

Airbus hopes to sell 750 superjumbos to airlines operating services between the busiest airports, mainly in Asia, which serve as hubs, or stopovers between connecting flights.

In a three-class cabin layout, the A380 will carry 555 passengers — 33 percent more than the 747. The A380 has 49 percent more floor space — leaving additional room for features such as on-board shops, bars, casinos or even nurseries.

Singapore Airlines will begin using the plane for service to London and Sydney when it becomes the first carrier to carry commercial passengers aboard the A380 in mid-2006, Cheng Choon Seng, CEO of Singapore Airlines, said.

## 2 million Muslims travel to Saudi Arabia for hajj

BY ADNAN MALIK

The Associated Press

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Chanting, "Oh Allah I'm here," pilgrims draped in white garments began streaming into the tent city of Mina to take part in rituals symbolizing the life of their 7th century prophet.

Two million people travel to the holy cities in Saudi Arabia each year to participate in the hajj, or pilgrimage, which Muslims believe cleanses the soul and wipes away sins. Over 50,000 security forces have been deployed in response to terrorism fears and to prevent stampeding and other problems that have plagued the annual hajj in recent years.

Many pilgrims remain concerned about numerous hazards such as stampedes and fires that have killed hundreds of pilgrims in recent years.

"I will pray for the tsunami victims, but my immediate concern is that Allah enables us to complete our pilgrimage safe and sound," said Nigerian doctor Mokhtar Ahmed, 30.

In addition to the burden of hosting 2 million visitors, Saudi authorities have expressed concerns about terrorism and the spread of diseases.

The kingdom has mobilized count-

terrorism squads and set up medical centers to treat sick pilgrims.

The site of the stoning ritual where pilgrims have been stampeded has been developed to smooth the flow of pilgrims. A stampede last year left 244 pilgrims dead and another in 1990 killed 1,426 people.

The pilgrims begin the rituals by first circling the Kaaba, a large stone structure that Muslims face during their five daily prayers. They then continue to spend a night in the tent city of Mina, and head the next day to pray at Mount Arafat, the central rite of the pilgrimage.

The pilgrims later head to Muzdalifah, where they collect pebbles overnight, and throw pebbles the next day at three pillars symbolizing the devil. Many pilgrims then shave or trim their hair as a symbol of rebirth.

A camel, sheep or cow is slaughtered the day after the hajj to mark the beginning of Eid al-Adha, or the Feast of the Sacrifice.

Saudi Arabia has set up a mammoth tent city in Mina, with more than 40,000 white, fireproof tents to house the pilgrims. Dozens of trucks will roam the streets, offering food and drink.

Dozens of fire engines will be on



A pilgrim talks on his mobile phone at the Great Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Monday. More than two million Muslims will spend Tuesday night in Mina before heading to Arafat on Wednesday for the main day of the annual pilgrimage.

standby in the city surrounded by colorful mountains.

The pilgrimage is required of able-bodied Muslims at least once in a lifetime, if they can afford it. Pilgrims travel to the cities of Mecca, Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah.

### Report: Cars go unchecked

MONTREAL, Quebec — More than a dozen cars have barreled through a major Canada-U.S. border crossing in the last six weeks without being stopped by Canadian authorities, according to a news report. A total of 18 vehicles sped unchecked through the Lacolle crossing 30 miles south of Montreal between Dec. 7 and Jan. 2, the Radio-Canada television network reported Monday, citing numbers compiled by Customs agents.

Customs spokesman Dominic McNeely dismissed the report and insisted security at the Lacolle crossing remains tight.

### 36 arrested in drug sting

ROME — Italian police arrested 31 people Tuesday in a crackdown on a crime ring they say smuggled cocaine and hashish from Spain to Italy.

Police in Lanciano, central Italy, made the arrests before dawn while searching apartments in the area with the help of sniffer dogs and a helicopter. Police there said at least six of those arrested were South American.

In a separate case, police in the northern Italian city of Padova said they made five arrests and seized 48 pounds of cocaine and hashish when searching a car on the outskirts of the city Sunday.

### Pope, Jewish leaders meet

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II called for renewed commitment to stronger dialogue between Jews and Catholics as he warmly received more than 100 Jewish leaders, rabbis, cantors and their family members Tuesday in what was described as the largest such Vatican audience with Jewish representatives.

From The Associated Press



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## IN THE STATES

## Rice faces State hearing

BY ANNE GEARAN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State nominee Condoleezza Rice told senators on Tuesday that a U.S. exit strategy from Iraq is "directly proportional" to Iraq's ability to defend itself against terrorists after this month's elections.

Stepping out from her remarks behind the scenes role as President Bush's national security adviser, Rice said she could not give Congress a timetable for American disengagement.

"The goal is to get the mission accomplished," she said. "We're right now focused on security for the [Jan. 30] election."

Rice told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that spreading democracy through the Middle East remains a top administration foreign-policy objective.

The Palestinian election earlier this month following the death of Yasser Arafat offers "a moment of opportunity," she said. But Rice also said Palestinian leaders need to do more to end acts of terrorism against Israel, saying peace hopes will be dashed if such violence continues.

She raised the possibility that Bush might name an envoy to the Palestinians, but said timing was



Condoleezza Rice

an issue. "No one has objections in principle" to such an envoy, she said, but Rice added that "it is a question over whether that is appropriate" at this time.

Rice pledged Tuesday to work to mend and strengthen ties with allies frayed by Iraq. "The time for diplomacy is now," she told senators at her hearing to replace Colin Powell as secretary of state.

"The time for diplomacy is long overdue," retorted Sen. Joseph Biden, the senior Democrat on the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He told her the United States is "paying a heavy price" for the administration's policy in Iraq.

Despite pointed questioning from Biden and other committee Democrats, Senate confirmation of Rice — Bush's most trusted foreign policy confidante — was all but assured.

Rice insisted that the administration's actions in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks — including wars in Afghanistan and Iraq — were "difficult, and necessary and right."

"If I am confirmed, public diplomacy will be a top priority for me and for the professionals I lead," Rice said in an apparent attempt to ease concerns of those who suggested Bush's foreign policy was too unilateral and unaccommodating over the past four years.

Rice was closely grilled on the situation about Iraq.

Biden said the administration must "level with the American people" over an exit strategy and whether U.S. troop levels there are adequate.

"I would not presume to try to give the president military advice, but I do believe that he got good military advice and I do believe that the plan and the forces that we went in with were appropriate to the task," she said.



STAR BEACON/AP

Don Kozak uses a snowblower to clear his driveway Monday in North Kingsville, Ohio. An Arctic freeze is blanketing an area reaching from the Northeast down to north Florida — where temperatures were in the high 20s Tuesday morning.

## Arctic temperatures take toll on Northeast

The Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — A deep Arctic freeze refused to relinquish its grip over the Northeast and Midwest early Tuesday, keeping teeth chattering and temperatures at bone-chilling lows.

At least three deaths were blamed on the cold in Michigan.

After a relatively mild winter in the Northeast, brisk winds made it feel as cold as minus-20 degrees in western New York and minus-45 degrees in the Adirondacks in northern New York.

The cold blast will extend through Tuesday, with temperatures spiking as high as 30 degrees Wednesday. "Then we go back into a deep freeze for the end of the week with temperatures not making it out of the teens," Buffalo's chief meteorolo-

gist Tom Niziol said Monday.

The frozen body of Kathryn Jeanne Gates was found in Minneapolis on Sunday morning, hours after her motorized scooter tipped over and she was unable to get back up, police said. Overnight temperatures were below zero.

In Michigan's Wayne County, a man in his 50s who was believed to be homeless was found frozen to death Sunday in a grassy area near a sidewalk.

In Oceana County in western Michigan, a 24-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman were found dead Saturday, apparently from carbon monoxide poisoning after a propane heater used to heat a trailer.

The chill was felt as far south as Florida, where low temperatures Tuesday morning were reported in the high 20s and low 30s for northern Florida.

## U.S. Supreme Court sidesteps Gitmo case

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday dodged a dispute over the government's plans to conduct military trials for Osama bin Laden's former driver and other foreign terror suspects, avoiding another clash over the president's powers.

Justices were asked to decide if the Bush administration is trying to shortcut the rights of non-Americans facing trials at the Guantanamo Bay Navy base in Cuba. They declined without comment.

Salim Ahmed Hamdan is a Ye-

ment charged with conspiracy to commit war crimes, murder and terrorism.

Also on Tuesday, the Supreme Court declined to review an Air Force lieutenant's criminal conviction for having sex with a 15-year-old boy, which the officer contended was protected by a previous court decision overruling state laws criminalizing gay sex.

Justices, without comment, rejected the appeal by Second Lt. Ryan W. Davis. He pleaded guilty to consensual sodomy and conduct unbecoming to an officer in military court following an April 1997 meeting with a boy.

## Va. man admits guilt in oil-for-food conspiracy

WASHINGTON — An Iraqi-American businessman pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges he received payments from Iraq to illegally act as its agent in the United States, including getting millions of dollars worth of oil from the United Nations' oil-for-food program.

Samir A. Vincent, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Annandale, Va., entered the guilty pleas in federal court in New York to four criminal counts, according to Attorney General John Ashcroft. Vincent faces up to 28 years in prison.

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# President Bush says he has 'big agenda in mind'

BY NEDRA PICKLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As President Bush prepares to take office for a second term this week, he says he is worried that people "kind of write me off" before he can get things done.

Bush said Monday he has "a big agenda in mind," which includes his campaign promises to overhaul Social Security and the legal liability system, improve the tax code, school standards and the budget process, and make health care accessible to more Americans.

He acknowledges that four years is not a lot of time to get it all done but says he hopes Republicans and Democrats can unite now that all of his campaign promises are behind him.

"The good news is I'm not running again, so maybe politics won't creep in quite as fast," he told CBS News during a round of network interviews Monday afternoon. "We got to get moving and get some things done before — before people kind of write me off."

Bush said unity across party lines will be the most important message in his inaugural address.

"I have a responsibility to try to unite this country to achieve big things for all Americans," Bush told ABC News. "I will say that in my inaugural address, I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Before the president delivers his State of the Union address, Iraqis will hold the first elections for their new government, but turnout is expected to be limited by the threat of violence at the polls.

Bush said the elections are proving to be "a little bumping, but the fact that they are being held at all is a success."

"The fact that there's a vote is fantastic," Bush told NBC News.

"I think having a vote is important to them. They're staying away because of fear, not because they don't want to vote," he said. "This is just step one of a series of important steps toward an emergence of a democratic Iraq, and America will be more secure in the long run."

**"The good news is I'm not running again, so maybe politics won't creep in quite as fast. We got to get moving and get some things done before — before people kind of write me off."**

President George W. Bush

Asked on the "Today" show whether it would be more difficult now to launch a pre-emptive attack against a country deemed to represent a threat, Bush said, "We hope we don't have to. But if we had to, to protect America, you know if all else failed and we needed force to protect the citizens of the United States, I would do so. But my hope is we never have to do that again."

On concerns about the possibility that Iran could pose such a threat with a nuclear weapons capability, the president said, "I hope we can solve it diplomatically but I will never take any option off the table."

Besides Bush's swearing in on Thursday, the inaugural week festivities include a salute to America's military and several lavish balls. Bush said he does not agree with critics who say all the pomp

is excessive in a time of war and with last month's devastating tsunami. "I've never been much of a dancer, and the idea of going to 11 balls might be viewed as excessive," he joked on CBS.

Bush said it is important to celebrate a "peaceful transfer of power" and that he suspects inaugural guests have been generous in donating to tsunami victims. "You can be equally concerned about our troops in Iraq and those who suffered at the tsunami with celebrating democracy," he said.

The president opened the inaugural week Monday with a salute to his departing secretary of state, Colin Powell, and the late Martin Luther King Jr. on the official observance of the slain civil rights leader's birthday. Bush called Powell "one of the most effective and admired diplomats in America's history."

Bush presented Powell and his wife, Alma, with the John Thompson Legacy of a Dream Award for representing King's ideals and commitment to community service.

In an interview Monday, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said Bush has failed to live up to King's legacy on public policy or social justice. He criticized the president for cutting social services, failing to raise the minimum wage, leading a war with "no moral legitimacy" and refusing to meet with civil rights leaders.

"Extolling plaudits on an outstanding individual is no substitute for a commitment to enforcing civil rights laws," Jackson said.

## Command post brings 50 agencies together on inaugural security

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Far from the Capitol building where President Bush will take the oath of office, dozens of officials from 50 federal, state and local agencies will work side by side in a high-tech command center keeping close tabs on the security situation for the first presidential inauguration since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

At 120 work stations in the northern Virginia center and using giant video screens, law enforcement and security personnel will be able to watch from cameras that monitor downtown Washington streets, keep track of aerial surveillance flights and check sensors scanning for evidence of deadly biological or chemical agents.

"If there is a piece of technology that exists, we've put it to use for this event," said Jim Rice, the FBI supervisory agent for Thursday's inauguration.

For the first time, all the federal agencies that deal with security, law enforcement and crisis response will be housed in a single Joint Field Office. Also new for this presidential inauguration, federal agencies will be under the command of a "principal federal official" reporting directly to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

For this event, that officer is Tim Koerner, a top deputy in the Secret Service, which is the lead agency for the inaugural security effort.

The idea is to improve coordination among the various federal agencies, especially if there is a terrorist attack or other major disruption and there is an immediate need for such things as medical attention for casualties, hostage rescue or SWAT teams and investigative specialists such as FBI bomb technicians.

Law enforcement officials say that locating all officials under one roof will eliminate confu-

sion and duplication, as well as enable them to quickly determine whether there's a real threat or problem or if it's just a false alarm.

"When an incident first happens, in the first 30 minutes, probably about 75 percent of the information you get is wrong," Rice said. "Being able to look the guy in the eye who is telling you that, that eliminates a lot of problems."

The field office will command Coast Guard cutters and helicopters, canine bomb-sniffing units, the customs aircraft, bicycle patrols, crowd control and a host of other security and law enforcement assets.

Immigration, terrorism and criminal databases will be closely watched for any suspicious matches of people arriving in the United States or placed under arrest somewhere in the country. Commercial air traffic will be watched closely.

The centralized command center also will help with the roughly 2,000 out-of-town police officers — the largest group of reinforcements ever brought in for the swearing-in ceremony who began arriving in Washington on Tuesday to aid the inauguration.

The Washington Post reported that officers are coming from 85 law enforcement agencies, large and small, including volunteers from Los Angeles, Seattle, Charleston, W.Va., and Burlington County, Texas. Most will be stationed along the parade route or at other high-profile events.

Authorities traditionally seek help from outside agencies for the inauguration. But this time, the security demands were heightened because this is the first inauguration since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The outside officers will join about 4,000 personnel from the D.C. police force, U.S. Capitol Police, U.S. Park Police and other area agencies — forming an unprecedented security net.

## New presidential wheels



GENERAL MOTORS/AP

This 2006 Cadillac DTS Presidential Limousine will make its debut Thursday during President Bush's inaugural parade. President Bush will preview Cadillac's newest model when he takes the traditional drive down Pennsylvania Avenue in his second inaugural parade. GM, whose luxury Cadillac brand has provided transportation for numerous presidents, will introduce the actual production model of the DTS at next month's Chicago Auto Show.

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# Mass. clergy child rape trial set to begin

## Defrocked priest Shanley accused of molesting parishioners

BY DENISE LAVOIE  
The Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Paul Shanley, who was defrocked by the Vatican in 2004, was to go on trial Tuesday on child rape charges in one of a handful of criminal cases that prosecutors have been able to bring against priests accused of molesting their young parishioners decades ago.

Most of the priests accused in civil lawsuits have avoided criminal prosecution because the alleged crimes were committed so long ago that charges were barred by the statute of limitations.

But because Shanley moved out of Massachusetts, the clock stopped, allowing prosecutors to arrest him in May 2002 for sexual abuse that allegedly took place between 1979 and 1989.

Shanley became one of the most notorious figures in the clergy sex scandal after internal church documents were released showing church officials knew about allegations against him as early as 1967 yet continued to transfer him from parish to parish.

Prosecutors started out with four alleged victims, who said they were sexually abused by Shanley at St. Jean's parish in Newton when they were children. The men told similar stories of being taken out of religious education classes and raped by Shanley in the church rectory, confessional and restroom.

But prosecutors dropped two of the alleged victims from the case and plan to drop a third before testimony begins, leaving only one accused.

Shanley's lawyer, Frank Mondano, has made it clear he will argue that the man made

up his story of abuse to win a monetary award in a civil lawsuit.

All of the alleged victims settled civil lawsuits with the Boston Archdiocese in April 2004. The exact monetary terms were not disclosed, but an attorney for the men has said each received more than \$300,000. That was the maximum settlement received by 550 other alleged abuse victims in an \$85 million settlement reached with the archdiocese in September 2003.

Prosecutors have asked Judge Stephen Neel to bar Shanley's defense from introducing evidence of the civil settlement. The judge has not ruled on the request.

Shanley's defense also plans to challenge the man's claims of repressed memories. The man said he did not remember the abuse until after the clergy scandal erupted in Boston three years ago.



Paul Shanley

## La Conchita mudslide to stay put

BY FRED ALVAREZ  
Los Angeles Times

LA CONCHITA, Calif. — In a setback for residents trying to rebuild their town, Ventura County officials said Monday that the mound of earth that buried 13 homes and killed 10 people last week in La Conchita should remain there indefinitely because moving it would be too dangerous.

County workers are fencing off the mud pile and plan to leave it in place to buttress the unstable hillside that rises 600 feet above the coastal community between Ventura and Santa Barbara. At least 400,000 tons of earth swamped the town, leaving a mass of mud and debris measuring 30 feet deep in places.

"If it's touched, it can move again and cause another slide," said Supervisor John Flynn. "I say leave it where it is."

Geologists have advised steering clear of the slide or risk making things worse, said County Executive Johnny Johnston, adding that there has even been talk of replacing some of the dirt removed during the rescue operation to help shore up the massive mud pile.

"It just stands to reason that a certain equilibrium or balance can be achieved by keeping it in place," Johnston said. "We're not touching that."

La Conchita has been the site of numerous landslides over the last century, including one in 1995, when an estimated 600,000 tons of mud crushed nine ocean-view homes during a powerful March storm. No one was killed in that landslide.

In the wake of that slide, officials decided against trying to move the mound. Rather, they placed a chain-link fence around the slide area and three badly damaged homes, freezing in time the fury of that day.

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## 'Frank' to be biopsied

RICHMOND, Va. — A 9-year-old boy whose mother launched an online lawsuit to help pay for a biopsy on her son's tumor will have the procedure done for free, his mother said.

Dr. Hrayr Shahinian of the Skull Base Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center agreed to perform the biopsy free of charge on the tumor young David Dingman-Grover named "Frank."

said Frank Groff, spokesman for the Los Angeles institute.

David's parents had been auctioning off a bumper sticker reading "Frank Must Die" on eBay to raise money for the procedure.

David named the tumor at the base of his skull after Frankenstein, who used to scare him until he dressed up as the monster for Halloween.

The little boy was diagnosed in May 2003 with a grapefruit-sized malignant tumor called a rhabdomyosarcoma. Chemotherapy shrank it to the size of a peach pit, but David needs a specialized biopsy to determine whether the tumor is still cancerous, his mother and doctor said.

## Fen-pen talks

PHILADELPHIA — Lawyers for the drug maker Wyeth and lawyers representing people suing the company over diet drugs have asked a federal judge here to approve a stay of litigation so that settlement talks could move forward.

Such a settlement would avert thousands who suffered heart failure damage after taking the so-called fen-pen diet drug.

The request for a stay, which lawyers involved in thousands of cases announced Tuesday, came after The Wall Street Journal reported that Wyeth had reached a tentative settlement framework with a group of plaintiffs' lawyers for nearly all the remaining liability cases.

From wire reports

## Law to combat driver's license fraud

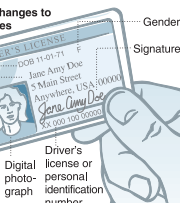
New federal standards aim to combat identity fraud — and terrorism — by beefing up requirements for driver's licenses. The law standardizes the documents needed to obtain a license and mandates that they be readable by machine.

### Some proposed security changes to standardize driver's licenses

Person's date of birth  
Full legal name and address of principal residence

### Law aims to regulate

- ▶ Documents drivers present to get a license
- ▶ Verification that documents are authentic
- ▶ Ability to ensure that licenses can't be forged



Source: Department of Homeland Security

AP

## Privacy advocates pan standardized driver ID

BY ROBERT TANNER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Privacy advocates are warning that the new federal standards for driver's licenses — a common form of photo identification in the United States — will centralize information that can be misused. Government officials say they're just trying to close a security loophole, and that the worries are overblown.

The federal intelligence overhaul that became law last month — while creating a new national intelligence director and beefing up border patrols — also aims to close loopholes for identity fraud that some of the Sept. 11 terrorists used to get aboard the jets they hijacked in 2001. People boarding U.S. airplanes must show photo identification.

Driver's licenses vary by state, but they all feature a photo and personal information such as home address and date of birth.

"There is a strong sense of protection of privacy by all of the administrators of DMV [Depart-

ment of Motor Vehicles] records, because we know the value of the information we've been entrusted with," said George Tatum, North Carolina's Department of Motor Vehicle commissioner. "We just want you to be who you say you are."

The small provision in the massive intelligence overhaul doesn't take effect immediately. It requires 18 months of deliberation by state and federal officials, and others.

States can opt to — refuse to make changes to their driver's licenses that will be required under the federal law — but then the licenses would be useless for any federal purpose, from getting benefits to boarding an airplane guarded by federal screens.

The intelligence law aims to standardize the documents drivers present to get a license, the ways DMV workers verify that those documents are authentic, the information included on a license and the steps authorities take to ensure licenses can't be forged. The law also requires that licenses can be read by machines.



## OPINION

# Nothing nostalgia limits Social Security

**I**t's telling that those who want to keep Social Security just as it can only offer the same old excuse: "There's no crisis." This rationale for rejecting the use of private investment accounts as part of Social Security reform comes from people who call themselves "progressive," no less.

What their call for inaction really tells us is that they're visionless reactionaries.

They can only see modest changes to Social Security in reaction to a "crisis." So they'll wait it out, even though there are huge problems ahead for this entitlement program for retirees.

True, Social Security isn't bankrupt — just yet. In as little as 13 years, by 2018, when the bulk of my baby boom generation finally retires, Social Security reserves no longer are expected to be building up the system. By 2042 or maybe 2052, Social Security would no longer have the trust-fund assets to cover retiree benefits because the ratio of workers to retirees keeps narrowing.

Of course, those projections are conservative. They undercut the growth in immigrants, as compared to today's reality, ignoring how immigrants can pump up the work force to help pay for retirees' benefits. They also play down the potential for strong economic growth overall in the future.

Another valid point: If the government would stop borrowing from the plan's "trust fund" surplus — remember Al Gore's "lock box"? — to cover the cost of a slew of programs and all of those Bush

tax cuts, Social Security would be healthy years longer. That argument, though, ignores the bigger issue of what Social Security should be in the 21st century.

Bottom line: Americans are being short-changed. Social Security can be much more than it is today. That's what Democrats should be looking at achieving. Instead, they simply want to protect a program out of some kind of misplaced nostalgia for what it meant to be "progressive" in FDR's day.

There's no dispute that Social Security, fashioned under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, is a compact with the elderly and has done more to help retirees keep a decent, though fast-eroding, standard of living than anything else. Coupled with Medicare's health insurance benefits, Social Security has helped people over 65 keep their dignity. And those fortunate enough to have worked in companies that offer pensions, or to have earned enough to invest in markets, get extra "wiggles" to enjoy their golden years — thanks to Social Security.

Yet Social Security could stand some major tinkering. It was fashioned during another time for another world. Today's global economy demands a new look at a system that's barely keeping up with inflationary pressures for those who count on it as their only retirement income.

Politically speaking, no administration or Congress in the future would let Social Security go bankrupt. They would be voted out of office. So in a sense, the word "crisis" is a loaded political term that President Bush employs precisely because he knows the political odds are that change will come only in reaction to a crisis, not because of needed-for reform thinking.

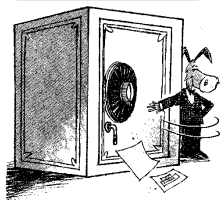
It's a shame that Bush has opted to use such disingenuous language to move the debate on Social Security forward. Both

## THE DEMOCRATS' 2-STEP PLAN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY...

### 1. CREATE A LOCK BOX



### 2. INSERT BUSH



sides exaggerate for their own purposes.

The reality is Social Security reforms will require tough decisions about delaying retirement age, cutting back on benefits for those who choose to use a portion of their payroll taxes for investments and sticking tough to the promise that if markets tank, individual investors who opt out of a portion of Social Security won't get bailed out by Big Brother. And the cost of transferring to a private system, even if the reform only allows workers to invest a small percentage of their payroll taxes, can't be whitewashed. Whatever money workers take out of the system for investments will have to be made up by government in the short term to ensure that current retirees' benefits continue.

The goal of allowing future generations to use part of their Social Security payroll

taxes for private investment accounts is a worthy pursuit. How that's done is what should matter.

It should be a system that helps the poorest workers make wiser decisions about investments and not just a system that serves the rich and middle class, who are familiar with investing. Otherwise, we would be stealing the hopes of low-income workers to make the rich richer.

That's unacceptable. I'm no Chicken Little on Social Security reform. Never have been. Nor do I cry wolf, as Bush is doing, on the current system's viability.

The point is, we can do better for future generations — if only politicians on both sides have the gumption to dream big but tell it straight.

Myriam Marquez is an editorial-page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

# Ruling returned some sanity to federal sentencing

The (Baltimore) Sun

**I**n the federal court system, few issues have been more contentious than the sentencing guidelines that Congress passed in the mid-1980s, ostensibly to make sure that criminal defendants received about the same time for the same crime.

But federal judges have long complained that the guidelines robbed them of their discretion in weighing different circumstances that might pertain to similar crimes. And defendants and their attorneys complained of onerous sentences that could not be altered. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court has restored some measure of sanity into the process. While the decision last Wednesday is complex, the overall result is welcome.

The guidelines, which went into effect in 1987, were meant to address wide disparities in sentencing, including among different racial and ethnic groups. They also aimed to make sentences more transparent and uniform. But as time passed, Congress kept adding layers to the system, allowing sentences to become more excessive and even Draconian.

As a practical matter, power shifted from judges, who are meant to be neutral, to prosecutors, who could virtually determine the outcome of a case by the charges they set. The entire process became more and more convoluted as well, making the sentencing guidelines resemble the tax code.

And the results were still unfair. That

was ultimately the court's view in the cases decided last week. Freddie J. Booker was convicted by a Madison, Wis., jury of possessing to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. After considering his criminal history and evidence at a post-trial hearing that he had actually distributed more than 500 grams, the judge increased what would have been a sentence of nearly 22 years, based on the jury's findings, to 30 years. Similarly, Dacan Fanning was convicted by a jury in Portland, Maine, of distributing 500 grams of cocaine. Based on the jury's findings, his maximum sentence should have been 6½ years in prison. When the gov-

ernment pushed for a longer sentence, based on evidence at a post-trial hearing that he was responsible for distributing even more drugs and that he was an organizer of criminal activity, the judge refused.

That the guidelines allowed judges to increase sentences based on evidence that the jury did not consider, and under a standard — preponderance of the evidence — that was less rigorous than the jury's finding beyond a reasonable doubt, were key reasons why a 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court found the guidelines unconstitutional.

When it came to fixing the problem, an-

other 5-4 majority ruled that the guidelines should now be considered "effectively advisory" instead of mandatory.

Although some of the long-term implications of the rulings are still being sorted out, this is a welcome and long-overdue development, suggesting that judges can still defer to the guidelines without being handcuffed by them.

And while the court's decisions bring some much-needed balance to sentencing, they have provoked angry reactions from some members of Congress. Those members should give the court's decisions time to settle, and view them as restoring proper checks and balances, not promoting disrespect.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## YOUR MONEY

# offer perks to military

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — American Airlines is extending special travel offers for military personnel, including reduced fares, pre-boarding courtesies, and the use of the executive lounge.

The Fort Worth, Texas-based airline is extending several of its special fares to domestic and some international destinations until June 5. Tara Phillips, a spokeswoman for the airline, said in a Thursday e-mail outlining the extended benefits.

For servicemen and their families who are heading to Europe, Latin America and Japan, discounted tickets will be available for travel through May 31.

The airline also is eliminating the minimum stay requirement on its discounted fares for servicemen. Instead of requiring a Saturday-night stay, American is simply requiring that servicemen spend a single night at their destination in order to get the lower ticket prices.

The reduced fares are available to active-duty servicemen, as well as activated National Guard or reservists, who are on leave or furlough (including those who are traveling within seven days of discharge from active service), and their spouse and dependent children.

American Airlines executives also have decided to continue a practice, instituted almost a year ago, of inviting uniformed military personnel to pre-board the aircraft, or board at any time — a courtesy usually extended only to first-class passengers and those with special needs.



Passengers wait at an American Airlines ticket counter at the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in Grapevine, Texas, in 2002. Waits for servicemen traveling on American Airlines will be shorter starting Jan. when the airline introduces special offers for troops, including pre-boarding.

Finally, American is extending through May 5 its invitation to any uniformed servicemen who is on emergency or R&R leave from Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom to use American's "Admirals Club" facilities at any airport worldwide that does not offer USO facilities, Phillips said.

To gain access to an Admirals Club, eligible military personnel in appropriate uniform should present their emergency or R&R leave forms at the facility's entrance.

Discounted tickets are available at American Airlines ticketing locations or by calling American's reservations number at 1-800-433-7300 or 1-800-633-3711 for Spanish. Military ID must be presented at the time of airport check-in. The military fares are not available via the Internet.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at:  
burgessl@starsandstripes.com

# Regulations, demand dictate housing prices

BY HOLDEN LEWIS  
bankrate.com (KRT)

Lima, Ohio, has the most affordable housing in the country, while Santa Barbara, Calif., resides at the other end of the spectrum, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Nine of the 10 most-affordable markets in the organization's Housing Opportunity Index are in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. All of the 10 least-affordable markets are in California.

The organization blames "excessive regulations" for much of the lack of affordability of the problem in California, but the state's enduring appeal has something to do with it, too.

Santa Barbara is stony and nestled between mountains and sea, with little room to spread out. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the median household income in the county in 2004 was \$64,700. The NAHB says the median price of a home in metro Santa Barbara was \$447,000 in the third quarter of 2004. Prices are rising rapidly. The California Association of Realtors says the median price of a home in the county hit \$668,750 in November.

Affordable Lima could scarcely be more different from Santa Barbara. Its skies are gray most of the winter, and it is surrounded by abundant, flat farmland that is pretty, but unspectacular. HUD says Lima's median family income in 2004 was \$35,000. The median sale price of all homes sold in the third quarter of 2004 was \$82,000, according to the NAHB.

In other words, a typical home in Santa Barbara costs more than 10 times a typical family's income, while a home in Lima costs about 1.6 times a family's income.

The home builders rank 162 metropolitan areas by estimating the percentage of homes sold that would be affordable to a family earning the area's median household income.

In Lima, a family earning the

median household income could have afforded 90.5 percent of the homes sold there last summer. In Santa Barbara, less than 5 percent of the homes sold would have been affordable to someone making the median household income.

"Ultimately, higher home prices are a matter of strong buyer demand," says Bobby Rayburn, a home builder and president of the NAHB. "But a big contributor has been a shortage of land available for development due to growth controls, and the high cost of regulations in general."

There is some truth to the NAHB's criticism of regulation, experts say. California has strong environmental protections, and it's hard to get permits to build houses on hillsides that are prone to fires and landslides.

While local governments try to come up with affordable housing policies, lenders are charging ahead with clever mortgage products.

Brett Vratil, a Realtor with Zip Realty who sells mostly in West Los Angeles, says almost all of his customers get interest-only mortgages, often for the total purchase price. Interest-only loans increase buyers' purchasing power by about 25 percent, Vratil says, and that's often what it takes to get someone into a home in Los Angeles.

Fixed-rate mortgages are becoming increasingly rare in California because of adjustable-rate mortgages, or ARMs, have lower rates. One of the most popular loans is the 5/1 hybrid ARM, which starts out with a rate that lasts for five years, then adjusts annually thereafter. The initial rate on a 5/1 ARM is about three-quarters of a percentage point less than a comparable 30-year fixed.

The difference can spell big savings. A \$500,000 loan at 6 percent has a monthly principal-and-interest payment of \$2,998. A 5/1 ARM at 5.25 percent starts out with monthly principal-and-interest payments of \$2,600. If the loan is interest-only, the monthly payment is about \$2,188.

# Judge blocks Enron info in WorldCom CEO's trial

BY ERIN MCCLAM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The judge in the trial of ex-WorldCom Inc. chief Bernard Ebbers ruled Tuesday that the defense could keep the star witness about marital infidelity and blocked testimony about Ebbers' knowledge of wrongdoing in the Enron scandal.

The government had sought to produce evidence that Ebbers watched the hearings on the collapse of Enron Corp. and discussed them with Scott Sullivan, his chief financial officer.

Federal prosecutors had hoped to use the episode to show that Ebbers knew WorldCom's own accounting procedures amounted to criminal conduct. Ruling on the eve of Ebbers' trial, U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones said she did not see the relevance.

Sullivan had faced his own trial until pleading guilty last year and agreeing to testify against his former boss.

The judge also said she would allow Ebbers' defense lawyers to question Sullivan about marital infidelity because it addresses "Mr. Sullivan's character for truthfulness."

But in a victory for the government, the judge refused to grant

immunity to two former WorldCom executives who the defense says could provide testimony favorable to Ebbers.

The defense wants to use the two executives to show that Sullivan, not Ebbers, was behind WorldCom's accounting tricks — but contends the government is keeping them "in limbo" and reserving the right to prosecute them.

"We don't have a fair trial if this evidence is not before the jury," Ebbers' lawyer Reid Weingarten said, unsuccessfully trying to sway the judge.

The rulings came the day before potential jurors are to fill out questionnaires in the trial of Ebbers, who is charged with orchestrating WorldCom's accounting fraud. Opening statements could begin some time next week.

Ebbers, 63, has pleaded not guilty. The charges against him carry up to 85 years in prison.

In 2002, WorldCom collapsed under the weight of an \$11 billion accounting fraud and filed for the largest bankruptcy in the history of American business.

Federal prosecutors say Ebbers lied about his company's finances before the collapse, orchestrating a shell game to cover up its problems.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs	\$1.3964
British pound	\$1.6290
Japanese yen (Jan. 15)	100.00
South Korean won (Jan. 14)	1,010.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.3777
British pound	\$1.6290
Canada (Dollar)	1.2187
Denmark (Krone)	6.57
Egypt (Pound)	\$1.3964
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.7549
Israel (Sheqel)	186.26
Iceland (Krona)	69.95
Israel (Sheqel)	186.26
Japan (Yen)	100.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$1.3010
Norway (Krone)	6.57
Poland (Zloty)	3.20
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	25.32
Singapore (Dollar)	1.36
South Korea (Won)	1,010.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.12
Thailand (Baht)	36.48
U.S. (New Line)	60.60

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency, U.S. figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$422.85
Silver	\$6.60

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	3.25
3-month bill	3.25
3-month bill	3.25
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

# Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

## How much to tip

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Most people know that a standard restaurant gratuity is 15 percent to 20 percent, but how much to tip in other situations can be tricky.

Jodi R. Smith, president and founder of a Boston-based etiquette consulting firm, offers this advice:

**Bartender:** If you're sitting at the bar, \$1 per drink is enough. **Baby-sitter:** Give him or her a

little extra if your kids have been especially difficult.

**Movers:** How much you tip depends on the scope and difficulty of your move. You should tip about \$10 to \$50 per mover. If the movers are on a truck, 15 percent of the cost for services.

**Taxi driver:** For expedient service — with no unnecessary detours — plan to tip \$1 to \$2 if he or she flags down a cab for you. Don't tip for simply holding open a door for you.





## Home for tiger cubs

**NC** CHARLOTTE — Two young tiger cubs found wandering along a highway were given a home at the North Carolina Zoo recently as zoo officials worried that private ownership of exotic animals poses an increasing danger.

"This is just the latest example of a huge ongoing problem that the state Legislature needs to address," said zoo director David Jones. "These animals being kept in private hands pose a real threat to public safety and are detrimental to the welfare of the animals themselves."

The zoo pushed for several years for state laws to restrict private ownership of exotics, he said. Within the past 18 months, two North Carolina children have been mauled by tigers, including a young Wilkes County boy who was killed.

## Charged for lawyer jokes

**NY** HEMPSTEAD — Did you hear the one about the two jokes arrested for telling lawyer jokes? But seriously folks, it happened to the founders of a group called "Americans for Legal Reform," who were waiting in line to get into the First District Courthouse.

"How do you tell when a lawyer is lying?" Harvey Kash reportedly asked Carl Lanzisera.

"His lips are moving," they said in unison.

While some waiting to get into the courthouse giggled, an attorney further up the queue was not laughing. He told them to pipe down, and when they didn't, the attorney reported the pair to court personnel, who charged them with disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor.

"They just can't take it," Kash said of lawyers in general. "They're so used to control. We were outside on the street. This violates our First Amendment rights."

Dan Bagnuolo, a spokesman for the Nassau County courts, said the men were "being abusive and they were causing a disturbance."

## Site for museum

**KS** WICHITA — City officials have secured a riverfront site for a Kansas African-American museum, which could end up named for famed photographer Gordon Parks, a native of Fort Scott.

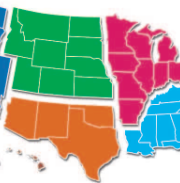
Parks, who now lives in New York, supports plans for the \$19.5 million museum and has donated 29 photographs, valued at \$1 million, to the project.

## Cargo stowaways nabbed

**CA** LOS ANGELES — The day after 32 Chinese nationals were found in shipping containers at the Port of Los Angeles, federal and local authorities said they were trying to unravel what appeared to be a human smuggling operation.

"Our intention at the moment is to develop a smuggling case," said Immigrant and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Virginia Kice.

The 28 men and four male teenagers, apparently trying to sneak into the United States, were found inside two containers after a crane operator spotted several stowaways emerging from a hole in one



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

of the containers. The containers had been loaded onto the vessel during a stop in Shekou, China, port officials said.

Investigators said the stench coming from the containers was "overwhelming." Inside they found discarded food packages, blankets, and containers overflowing with human waste. The stowaways traveled with food and water, and authorities said all were in good condition. They had also set up small battery-powered fans in the container.

## Suspect has record

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A man suspected in 23 bank robberies in the Twin Cities during the last year and a half was well-known to authorities as a public nuisance with a temper and a history of criminal activity, according to police records.

John Whitrock, 56, is suspected of being a notorious bank robber known as the Fishing Hat Bandit, after the floppy hats he sometimes wore. He was arrested Jan. 7 and charged with robbing a credit union in Edina.

Neighbors have described him as a nice man, but Whitrock has been convicted twice of driving while intoxicated, stopped twice for attempting to shoplift from a supermarket and cited for public displays in women's underwear and a blond wig, according to reports published by the Minneapolis Star-Tribune and the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

neer Press.

He also once threatened his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend with a gun as the man stood at a urinal, according to Eagan police records.

"He's a dirtbag," said Bruce Windlund, the man Whitrock pointed the gun at in 1992. "That nice guy act he puts on? You don't know how far from the truth that is."

Whitrock has been charged only with the one robbery, but police said he has admitted to 19 other heists. Born in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., Whitrock completed a year of college and served two years in the Army. In the late 1980s, he was a button-down, tie-wearing financial analyst.

## Governor's popularity

**CT** HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Rel's popularity is at 83 percent, the highest ever recorded for a state official in the Quinnipiac University poll.

Nearly half of those polled said Rel's decision to deliver her State of the Address nine days after heart surgery made them think more favorably of her.

## Hog keeps growing

**ND** HARLOW — Jean and Bernard Meyer have a celebrity on their Benson County farm. He doesn't have a name, but he's a heavyweight.

The Meyers' 7-foot, 8-inch hog weighs 1,300 pounds.

Bernard Meyer, who has raised hogs for more than 50 years, said the 2-year-old Yorkshire-Hampshire-Duroc cross weighed 300 pounds when purchased in Minnesota nearly two years ago.

"He usually gets corn in his rations," Meyer said. "He doesn't get a lot of feed. He just happened to be a fast grower. I tell my friends he just grew up."

"I thought that if I can get him to 1,500 pounds, I can take him to the State Fair," Meyer said. "We weighed him last summer and he was 1,200 pounds. By fall, he weighed 1,300 pounds."

## Seattle's nudity clause

**WA** SEATTLE — An art lover left his hometown about \$1 million to buy a new fountain, but with a stipulation.

The late Stu Smalles made clear the work must include the figure of at least one life-size naked man.

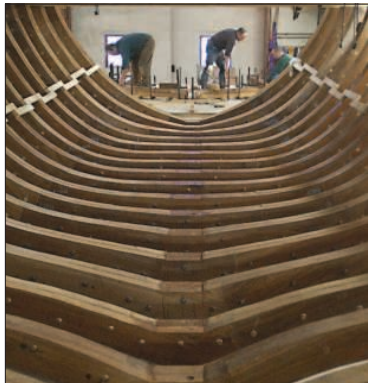
Smalles, a retired computer analyst, died in 2002 at the age of 69. He was an only child, with no immediate family. His attorney, Tim Bradbury, said Smalles was a great fan of the arts.

"He was a very funny man," Bradbury said, with a "very strong sense of humor."

According to court documents, the fountain bequest is to include "one or more unclothed, life-size male figure(s) designed in the classical style, i.e., realistic," said Karen Byström at the City's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

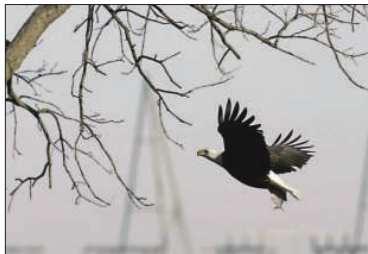
Byström said somebody in her office has suggested the naked-man fountain be part of the Seattle Art Museum's new Olympic Sculpture Park, now a work in progress at the north end of the downtown waterfront.

The agreement is still being negotiated.



## Time travel

Rockport (Maine) Marine employees work on the latest replica of the Godspeed, one of three ships that carried settlers nearly 400 years ago to land in Virginia, the site of the first permanent English settlement in the New World. The work is expected to be completed by March 2006, well in time for the following year's 400th anniversary of the settlement.



## Grabbing something to eat

A bald eagle carries a fish caught in the Mississippi River in Keokuk, Iowa, which was holding its annual Eagle Appreciation Days to celebrate the year's largest gathering of the birds.



## Blazing hot

Company in Oklahoma City.

A large cloud of fire rises above firefighters working a five-alarm fire at the B&M Oil



## Fierce protector

A dog keeps an eye out for any intruders in the back yard of a home in Las Cruces, N.M.



**Morning view**  
The small town of Hilo, Hawaii, wakes to blue skies, sunshine and snow high up on Mauna Kea mountain.



**Tattoo you**  
Efrain Rosario, right, applies a temporary tattoo on Laverne Hollins during Art Deco Weekend in the South Beach section of Miami Beach, Fla. Art Deco Weekend started with three vendors at the Cardozo Hotel more than a quarter-century ago.



**Runneth over**  
The Santa Felicia Dam overflows in Piru, Calif. Recent storms brought heavy rain and snow to several western states.



**Thinking of others**  
People gather in the shape of a heart to commemorate La Conchita, Calif., mudslide and Asian tsunami victims at Santa Barbara City College in Santa Barbara, Calif.

## Coin sells for about \$3M

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — The legendary Brasher Doubloon, the first gold coin made in the United States, sold for nearly \$3 million at a public auction.

President of Rare Coin Wholesalers Steven Contursi and Dr. Donald Kagan of California jointly purchased the gold piece.

The coin was hand-struck in 1787 by George Washington's New York City neighbor, gold and silversmith Ephraim Brasher. Only 10 examples survive.

## Referee attacker freed

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Hampton, Pa., parent Peter Dukovich will not serve jail time for his attack on a high-school basketball referee.

Common Pleas Judge John Zottola convicted Dukovich of simple assault but acquitted him of three other charges, including assault on a sports official.

Zottola said Dukovich, 48, had lived an exemplary life until his confrontation with Ron Bell during a Feb. 6 game. Nothing would be gained by jailing Dukovich to jail for an incident that was out of character with his history as a good parent and citizen, Zottola said.

## Fake ad fools some

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A fake radio announcement purporting to notify Minnesotans about a state "light-out" law has dozens of perplexed people calling the state Department of Natural Resources.

KDWB Radio listeners have been directed to visit a Web site to file for a light extension or rat out a neighbor.

The supposed DNR site ([www.lightoutminnesota.org](http://www.lightoutminnesota.org)) looks official enough with photos of the Capitol, loons and a lady's slipper as well as a message from the director and his smirking photo. Fines, he warns, will be assessed on a per-bulb basis.

"It's a bit of an April Fool's joke in January," explained Rob Morris, KDWB's program director. Radio folks call it a buzz bit — it gets someone's attention.

## Adult seat belt use up

**AL** MONTGOMERY — Seat belt use in Alabama last year was at a record high of 80 percent, but fewer people were buckling up children in car seats.

That rate dropped from 87 percent in 2003 to 83 percent in 2004. State health officials announced the results after a study observed use of the restraints in 15 selected counties.

## College gal can chow

**PA** CLEARFIELD — Kate Stelnick may weigh only 100 pounds, but her appetite is remarkable.

The college student from Princeton, N.J., is the first to meet a restaurant's challenge by downing its six-pound hamburger — and five pounds of fixins' — within three hours.

Stelnick, 19, didn't eat for two days to prepare for the challenge. "I felt very full, but I was too excited that I actually ate it to notice," Stelnick said. She made the five-hour drive to Denny's Beer Barrel Pub after seeing pictures of

the monster burger, dubbed the Ye Old 96er.

Nobody had finished the big burger in the three-hour time limit since it was introduced on Super Bowl Sunday 1998. In addition to the meat, contestants must eat one large onion, two whole tomatoes, one half head of lettuce, 1/4 pounds of cheese, two buns, and a cup each of mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, relish, banana peppers and some pickles.

Stelnick did it all in two hours, 54 minutes.

Bar owner Denny Leiley Jr. said he was pretty sure somebody would meet his burger challenge, though he didn't have a pettie woman in mind.

## Suspect found in TV

**GA** BAINBRIDGE — A man allegedly on the run from Florida authorities since September was found curled up inside a TV.

After receiving a tip that Alfred Blane, 45, of Ponce de Leon, Fla., might be in Decatur County, police went to a mobile home near Bainbridge College, where a woman told police he was hiding under a mattress inside.

With the department's police dog, officers went inside. They searched the house thoroughly, even checking a freezer and washing machine, said Lt. Tim Watkins of the Thomas County Sheriff's Department.

Meanwhile, the dog kept poking around a TV, an older floor model, Watkins said. When officers unscrewed the back of the television, they found a balled-up Blane inside, Watkins said, adding that Blane is between 5-foot-10 and 6-feet tall.

Blane escaped in handcuffs from two sheriff's deputies in September as they tried to place him in the back of a police car, said Capt. Stan Sunday of the Walton County Sheriff's Office in Florida. He faces many charges, including burglary, possession of methamphetamine, battery on a law enforcement officer and escape.

## Body found off shore

**HI** HILO — A 54-year-old woman was found dead in a submerged car at the Pohokiki Boat Ramp at Isaac Hale Beach Park in Puna on the Big Island.

Police said they identified the woman but were withholding her name until next of kin were notified. No foul play is believed to be involved in the woman's death, Detective Juergen Canda said.

Hawaii County Fire Department officials say a snorkeler found the car 50 feet from the shoreline in 10 feet of water. The doors were locked, the windows were rolled up and the car was filled with water, the officials said.

## Library legislation

**VA** RICHMOND — Two Virginia lawmakers are pushing bills that would require any public library that receives state funds to install filtering software on its computers.

The legislation is necessary to protect children from unwittingly stumbling across pornography while using the Internet at public libraries, said the House bill's sponsor, Del. Samuel Nixon, Jr., R-Chesterfield.

Stories and photos from wire services



## AFTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(AFN-SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Stanley	Movie "Bornhead Hearts" (1997) Roma Downey, Hector Elizondo. A family member agrees to pose as her employer's wife.	Dr. Phil (1998) Dr. Phil McGraw.	Jagurdi!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	30 Minute Music	Jagurdi!
9:30 Sawtooth-Samuel Cat				Headline News		Food 511	Headline News
10:00 Arthur (E)		(9:45) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNNews	Herbald With Chris Matthews		Sensible Chic	ESPNNews
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)		(10:00) Oprah Winfrey	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor		Wishful Film	The O'Reilly Factor
11:00 Stanely	10:48 Movie *** "The Amityville Horror" (1979). (1980) James Brown, Margot Kidder, Rod Taylor.	(11:00) General Hospital	Arrested Development		SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00 Dora the Explorer (E)		Headline News	The Casino	FOX News		That '70s Show	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
12:30 The Wiggles "Nutrition"		Judge Judy	The District "Fire Byrd"	Fox and Friends	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Girlfriends	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition
13:00 Bob the Builder	Movie *** "One Fine Day" (1996) Michelle Pfeiffer, Tim Allen. A wealthy single parent's life is turned upside down when he falls in love with a woman who is a single parent.	Today Donald Trump, portable	The District "Fire Byrd"			Charmed "Reckless Abandon"	Lost
13:30 Dragon Tales "Zak Takes a Dive/Under the Weather" Zak and Wheeler learn to swim. (E)							
14:00 Funniest Home Videos	13:45 Movie *** "Forget Paris" (1995) John Cusack, Annette Bening. A man falls for his fiancée about a week before the wedding.	Sylvester & Tweedy	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "His Who You Saw With"	Pacific Report
15:00 Full House		Buzz Lightyear of Star	The Tonight Show With David Letterman	OWN Live Today	NFL Live	Third Watch "Alone in a Crowd"	The Tonight Show With David Letterman
16:00 Pokemon		My Life as a Teenage Robot	Headline News	FOX News	World Sport	Law & Order "Pilot"	Headline News
17:00 Doug "Doug's Hot Dog" (E)		Headline News	The Late Late Show		SportsCenter	Beyond the Glory NFL running back Priest Holmes.	The Late Late Show
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		Coming Attraction	AFN Evening News	DaySide With Linda Vester	ESPNNews	NBA Inside Stuff	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
18:00 The Fairly OddParents		Entertainment Tonight	The Parkers	FOX News	NBA Inside Stuff	Tennis Australian Open - Early Round - Day 3, From Melbourne, Australia. (Same-day tape)	Entertainment Studios.com
19:00 Rugrats		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	Studio 5 With Shepard Smith		Ultimate Tree House	The Hot List
19:30 Even Stevens		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
20:00 Kanan & Kai		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
20:30 Gilmore Girls "Run Away Little Boy"		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
21:00 Degassi: Next		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
21:30 Degassi: Next		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
22:00 The Cosby Show		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
22:30 Home Improvement		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
23:00 Touched by an Angel "The Placemaker"		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America
23:30		Movie *** "Changing Lanes" (2002) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Arrested Development	FOX News		Friends	Good Morning America

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005

00:00 Aahh! Real Monsters	11:00 Movie *** "Bat 21" (1986) Gene Hackman.	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame
00:30 Rocket Power		Headline News	Base in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		Base in the Big Blue House	Base in the Big Blue House
1:00 SpongeBob SquarePants	12:55 Movie *** "An Inconvenient Man" (1989) Dianne Br. Al. A car accident puts two men on a collision course.	Gina	ABC World News Tonight	ABC World News Tonight		American Idol Performers	American Idol Performers
1:30 Rugrats		College Basketball Charlotte at Cincinnati. (Taped)	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	1st & 10	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune
2:00 Even Stevens		College Basketball Charlotte at Cincinnati. (Taped)	Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	NFL Live	American Idol	American Idol
2:30 Kanan & Kai		Oprah Winfrey	Oprah Winfrey	Harmony & Colmes		Ultimate Tree House	Oprah Winfrey
3:00 Gilmore Girls "Run Away Little Boy"		ESPNNews	NBC Nightly News	Headline News		Friends	NBC Nightly News
3:30 Degassi: Next		ESPNNews	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Judge Judy
4:00 Degassi: Next		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
5:00 Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
6:30 Blue's Clues		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
7:30 Bob the Builder		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
8:00 The Wiggles "Story"		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
8:30 Dora the Explorer		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
9:00 Stanley "X-Ray X-It"		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
9:30 Sawtooth-Samuel Cat		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
10:00 Arthur (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
10:30 Reading Rainbow (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
11:00 Stanely		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
11:30 Sawtooth-Samuel Cat		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
12:00 The Wiggles "Nutrition"		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
12:30 Bob the Builder		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
13:00 Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
14:00 Blue's Clues (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
14:30 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
16:00 Pokemon "Riddle Me This"		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
16:30 Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
17:00 Doug (E)		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
18:00 The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
18:30 Rugrats		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
19:00 That So Raven		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
19:30 Al That		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
20:00 10th Heaven "Child"		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
20:30		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
21:00 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
21:30 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
22:00 The Cosby Show		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
22:30 Home Improvement		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
23:00 Touched by an Angel "An Angel on the Hood"		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood
23:30		Headline News	ESPNNews	ESPNNews		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Access Hollywood

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## FACES

## Following in MLK's footsteps

When Harry Belafonte met the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1950s, he promised to always assist in his mission.



Belafonte

Thirty-seven years after King's death, the actor, singer and activist is still keeping his pledge.

Belafonte met with a group of about 60 people, many of them children, during a celebration of King's life at a Boys and Girls Club. He said the 13 years he worked side-by-side with the civil rights leader were "the most important of my life."

"Each and every one of you has the power, the will and the capacity to make a difference in the world in which you live in," Belafonte said. "You should go through life knowing, 'I am somebody.'"

Freedom was the theme of many questions posed by the kids, and one query left the 77-year-old Belafonte particularly reflective.

"How does it feel to be free?" asked 10-year-old Shawn Gordon.

Answered Belafonte: "When I get it, I will tell you."

## Stylish even in death

Samuel L. Jackson dies in his next huge film — but he does it in a really cool way.

Director George Lucas assured the actor that his Jedi knight character would go out in a blaze of glory in the forthcoming "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith," and the director apparently made good on his promise.

"It's rousing," Jackson told the San Francisco Chronicle. "It's a great light-saber battle with 102 moves in three big rooms."

For now, though, Jackson is enjoying the success of his "Coach Carter," in which he stars as a real-life high-school basketball mentor who shuts down the program to focus on his players' lagging academic education.



Jackson

## Criminals learn from HBO show

David Simon's HBO series "The Wire" — a fictional account of a police investigation of Baltimore drug dealers — allegedly had some real-life dealers taking notes.

While announcing a crackdown of a cocaine ring, police said their investigation was hampered by the suspects' habit of switching cell phones — a technique for evading electronic eavesdropping they picked up from TV.

"Believe it or not, these guys copied 'The Wire,'" one of the investigators, Sgt. Felipe Rodriguez, said at a news conference.

"They were constantly dumping their phones. It made our job so much harder."

Police relied largely on wiretaps to infiltrate the gang, which made up to \$15 million a year. The result: 12 arrests and seizure of 43 kilograms of cocaine, 18 handguns, \$500,000 cash and five luxury vehicles.

## Kirstie Alley exploits the fat facts

The person who dreamed up a TV series about Kirstie Alley's embarrassing battle with her weight and struggles inside the Hollywood fishbowl might be surprising.

It was Kirstie Alley.

"Actually, the show was my idea," she told the Rocky Mountain News in Denver. "It was sort of like I could either die — slit my throat, knowing that I could not work for a year or however long it would take to lose the weight — or I could make a series. You know, go with the flow and turn this into something fabulous."

Alley admits friends warned the former star of "Cheers" and "Veronica's Closet" that doing the upcoming Showtime series "Fat Actress" would be show-business suicide.

"I didn't listen. I believe that things will work out when you're honest about something and find humor in situations," she said.

Stories and photos from wire services

# 'Gentle giant' on and off screen

## Jorge Garcia plays a cool, collected survivor on ABC's 'Lost'

BY DANIEL FIENBERG

Zap2it.com

The plucky survivors of ABC's "Lost" could serve as a casebook for how most people would respond to being stranded on a deserted (and mysterious) island. Some folks would be as handy and altruistic as Matthew Fox's Jack or as malevolently resourceful as Josh Holloway's Sawyer. Few of us would show the eerie mastery of Terry O'Quinn's Locke, but the reluctant brattiness of Maggie Grace's Shannon would probably be in abundance. For most viewers, though, emulating Jorge Garcia's Hurley would be the best of all possible worlds.

Like the subject of Rudyard Kipling's "If," Hurley has kept his head when all about him are losing theirs. Like that poem's ideal hero, he doesn't necessarily look too good nor talk too wise, but on the fractious island, he's a friend to all and an enemy to none, a gentle giant perfectly willing to do hard labor, deskwork or even invent a liberating game of island golf. It's no wonder that while Fox and Holloway and Evangeline Lilly (Kate) may get the press, Garcia has broken out as one of the show's most popular stars.

"I feel like suddenly I get a bit better customer service, where people are more anxious to help me," Garcia says of his public reception. "Usually when people spot me, they're really happy to see me."

While the other characters on "Lost" constantly appear grimy and miserable, stressed out and on the verge of giving up, Hurley always just seems happy to be alive. He's quick with a joke, the only castaway who could possibly be described as happy-go-lucky. Garcia seems to be the same way. The 25-year-old actor arrived at auditions for "Lost" before the character of Hurley even existed and found himself reading pages for Sawyer.

Even once producers assured him that his character would exist and that copies of the pilot script were available, the actor wasn't in any kind of rush to see how many lines he got or whether he'd get to have any big emotional moments. Most familiar from comedic work on "Becker" and "Curb Your Enthusiasm," Garcia had all the information he needed.

"I had faith in J.J. Abrams and shooting in Hawaii and that was pretty much all I needed to hear," he laughs.

For the first half of the shooting schedule, production has been just wish fulfillment for the Nebraska-born actor.

"I love what I've gotten to do so far," he says.

"The whole thing where I ran away from the plane and it exploded behind me and we dove out in the sand, very action star-ish, I thought that was awesome. That's not something I really expected that I would get to do in my career."

Garcia notes, "Really all I need is a sword fight and I'll be totally satisfied."

Viewers, however, are far from satisfied with the mere snippets of knowledge they've received about the life of Hugo Reyes. While certain characters, including Fox's Jack, have already had multiple episodes dedicated to their backstories, Hurley has gone entirely unexplained, barring some cryptic hints. That won't change until the season's 18th hour, an episode which hasn't even been shot yet. Garcia, in fact, hasn't even seen a script, though the producers have let him in on the character's "big secret." Whatever that secret may be, Garcia isn't telling.

"Because there were hints laid out, I kinda had an idea that it was coming from here," he hedges, revealing nothing of his backstory.

"And then when I really stepped back and looked at it in the context of who Hurley has been up to this point, with the group, and that coming out in his revelation. Yeah, I thought it was pretty cool."

On the Internet, ways have been speculating for weeks over a perplexing line of dialogue where Hurley refers to

his normal life by saying, "I'm known as something of a warrior myself," a statement that has prompted buzz that Hurley could be everything from an extremely large undercover spy to an extremely dedicated Dungeons and Dragons player.

"There are certain things where you never realize what exactly the audience is going to jump on and really wonder about and catch," Garcia says of his "warrior" comment. "I didn't give that one too much attention and then I realized the attention it got on the Internet. So it made me wonder, 'Yeah, actually I wonder what that is.'"

He adds that in the script, the character smiles after making the statement, but the camera never cut back to his face.

As much of a conspiracy buff as he may be, Garcia isn't stressing out about solving the riddles of "Lost." Like his character, he's just content where he is, taking his off-days to swim at a favorite secluded Hawaiian beach.

"I float in the water and reflect on how great my life is right now," Garcia sighs.



Jorge Garcia plays Hurley on the action-packed adventure that will bring out the very best and the very worst in the people who are "Lost."

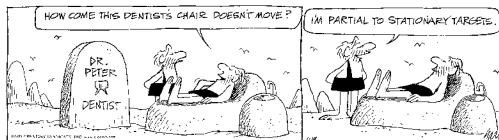
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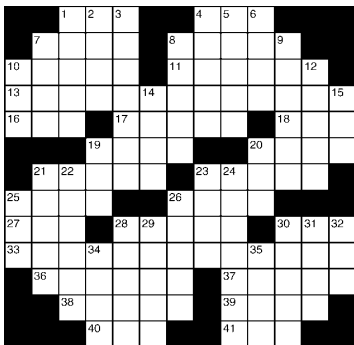
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Solidity  
4 Mel of Cooperstown  
7 It goes without saying  
8 Binge  
10 "The wonderful, wonderful cat"  
11 Accessory for that little black dress  
13 Prosperity, for many  
16 Two, in Tijuana  
17 Talk a blue streak?  
18 Through  
19 Toil  
20 Suspenders

## Down

- 40 Rep.'s rival  
41 Apiece  
19 Mich. neighbor  
20 Morsel  
21 Singer  
McLachlan  
22 Expiated  
23 Sci-fi knights  
24 Quick-walking ballroom dance  
25 Vacationing  
26 With demureness  
28 Black  
29 Sacred song  
30 Circus staffer  
31 Oklahoma city  
32 Cookbook verb  
34 Trampled (on)  
35 Such as

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## I-19

## CRYPTOQUIP

M K W P H F X G B L K Y P H H Q  
C M I V W Y T P B B M D X  
Z G B Z G L F C W D I L Z C M B C

L T Z G B B Q B M Z M D X B L C V  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A SKELETON PARTAKES OF DINNER, WOULD IT BE A SURE BET THAT HE PREFERS RIBS?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals T





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# Long, boring golf season is ahead

Here's a few things you might have learned, had you been moved in somewhere and needed a golf fix so badly that you watched the Sony Open.

One, television can't get enough of Michelle Wie, who is too young to even rent a golf cart at most courses. Two, Hawaii has some pretty nice scenery, with all the beaches and palm trees and stuff.

And three, without Tiger Woods, watching golf is a better cure for insomnia than popping a handful of sleeping pills.

Which is precisely why ESPN, in a desperate bid to inject some kind of spark in its telecast, showed tape of Wie just as the leaders were playing the final holes on Sunday. The tape was from the opening two rounds, when the cable channel showed nearly every shot she hit even as the teenager hacked it around for two days and missed the cut.

The alternative, of course, was showing the robotic Vijay Singh methodically making his way around the course and winning another tournament.

Officially, the Sony Open was the first full-field tournament of a season that will stretch over 10 months and end with the Tour Championship in October. If it was a preview of coming attractions, it's going to be a very long season indeed.

Yes, it's early in the year, a time when half the country is still buried under snow, and a time when it's hard to get focused on golf.

But there seems to be something wrong with the PGA Tour these days that even a Tiger on the loose can't readily fix.

I remember a time, not so long ago, when golf was fun. I couldn't wait to see the Golden Bear pulling the fairways, wanted to hear Fuzzy Zoeller crack jokes and agonized along with Greg Norman as he wildly thrashed his way from one disaster to another.

Players had creative nicknames, threw clubs in disgust and sometimes even went out of their way to make things interesting for the fans.

Imagine Davis Love III pulling a rubber snake out of his bag and tossing it at Relief Goosen the way Lee Trevino did to Jack Nicklaus did on the first tee of their playoff in the 1971 U.S. Open.

More to the point, imagine Love or Goosen even smiling once on the golf course.

Phil Mickelson smiles. It's kind of a goofy grin that sometimes makes his fellow pros wonder what he's smiling about. But at least Mickelson attracts fans, even though he seemed more interested in the opening weeks of the NFL season last year than trying to help the United States win a Ryder Cup.

Woods brought the magic back

### Tim Dahlberg



to golf when he arrived on tour and began winning major after major. But now Tiger-mania is over, and so is the golf boom that came along with it.

Fans are bored and

who can blame them? The players are boring.

That's bad news for the PGA Tour, which can expect to see TV ratings decline again this year as purses continue to increase. Golf may be stagnant, but there's always another golf-infatuated CEO somewhere who will spend his company's money on a sponsorship so he can get a few awkward moments of air time at a tournament on Sunday.

Money is the root of some of the problem. Singh won nearly \$11 million last year, and 77 players earned \$1 million or more.

They're rich, pampered and don't seem to understand that part of the deal in exchange for that is you should try to please the people watching.

A case in point is Paul Azinger, who should have been a sympathetic figure at the 2003 PGA Championship. It was the 10th anniversary of his only major win, and he had beaten cancer in between. But fans began yelling at him after he repeatedly walked past a line of kids seeking autographs, ignoring them every time.

Woods rarely signs autographs, too, and Singh is so wrapped up in his own little world that nothing penetrates his stoic exterior.

After winning Sunday — his seventh win in his past 11 Tour starts — Singh remarked how much of a relief it was to start the year off right so he "can start breathing again."

Funny you would say that, Vijay. Most of the time it looks as if you're not breathing at all.

Dave Renwick made more than \$1 million toting Singh's bag last year.

Think he had something nice to say about his former boss?

"I never got a 'Good morning' from Vijay, or 'Good club' after a shot, or 'Have a nice night' at the end of the day. It was either nothing or a negative if he did speak to me," Renwick told The Scotsman newspaper recently. "Being courteous isn't much to ask. There's only so much of that stuff you can take, no matter how good the money is."

The money is very good, of course, and the players are better than ever. Golf fans want to root, and they ask only thing from the players in return: Make it fun to watch once in a while.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: [tdahlberg@ap.org](mailto:tdahlberg@ap.org)







# Long, cold winter for St. Bonaventure

## Bonnies still staggering after being rocked by eligibility scandal in 2003

BY JOHN WAWROW

The Associated Press

OLEAN, N.Y. — The lunch crowd was gathering at Angees, with little buzz in the restaurant about the St. Bonaventure basketball game that night.

The Bonnies were home against George Washington, then ranked No. 21 and the best team to come to town this season. Yet the closest thing to a smile inside this hangout was the one belonging to Bob Lanier. The St. Bonaventure great is wearing his No. 31 uniform and dribbling a ball in a yellowing black-and-white poster next to the bar.

"I don't think I'm going," said Fritz Gram, a law clerk and long-time season-ticket holder. "It's too painful."

"It's going to be a long year," added barber Ray Padlo.

Reminded that the season's already half over, Padlo corrected himself, saying: "It's been a long year already."

Olean, a basketball-mad town on the edge of the Pennsylvania border, is now home to a school struggling to win any games at all and trying to recover from a player eligibility scandal that shook this community of 15,000.

At 1-13 following the loss to George Washington, the Bonnies are off to the worst start in school history and have lost 25 of 27.

The team has an RPI of 320 out of 330 Division I programs.

This is a long way from the days when the school earned four postseason berths from 1989-92. The highlight of that stretch came in 2000 when the Bonnies lost in double overtime to Georgetown in the first round of the NCAA tournament. And it's even further from the golden era of Lanier, who led the Bonnies to a Final Four berth in 1970.

The current troubles stem from the scandal of March 2003. The



**Tyler Relph, who is sitting out this season after transferring from West Virginia, watches St. Bonaventure lose to George Washington in Olean, N.Y., on Jan. 12 and fall to 1-13 on the year. A former New York State Mr. Basketball, Relph is excited about the Bonnies' future.**

school broke NCAA junior college transfer guidelines by allowing forward Jamil Terrell to play despite earning only a welding certificate at a Georgia community college.

The Bonnies were barred from the Atlantic 10 playoffs that sea-

son, a decision that spurred the players to boycott their final two regular-season games and led to NCAA sanctions a year later.

The mood is more upbeat on the St. Bonaventure campus overlooking the snow-covered Allegheny Mountains.

Standing in the foyer of the basketball office, coach Anthony Solomon claps his hands loudly, greeting a visitor by exclaiming: "I love this attention. If they want to talk about our record. Let them talk."

Inside his office, Solomon acknowledges what's apparent in the standings.

"We're going through the most difficult time right now because of the growing pains that we're experiencing, especially on the scoreboard," he said. "Certainly, human nature wants you to win on the scoreboard."

The Bonnies are being outscored by an average of 16 points a night and there's been only one game in which they had more assists than turnovers.

Solomon remains patient, seeing gradual improvement in a young team.

"These things in terms of building or rebuilding, it takes time and doesn't happen overnight," Solomon said. "I'm patient. We're going to persevere through this. And with time, we're going to get to where we'd all like to see it go."

**Anthony Solomon**

St. Bonaventure men's basketball coach

Solomon has not had it easy since coming aboard in May 2003 as a replacement for Jan van Breda Kolff, who was dismissed

after the school ruled he played a role in urging Terrell's transfer. Van Breda Kolff insists he knew nothing about Terrell's status and is suing St. Bonaventure for wrongful termination and libel.

The scandal took a darker turn in August 2003 when William Swan, chairman of the school's

trustees, committed suicide, in part because he thought he let down his alma mater.

Solomon, a former Notre Dame assistant, inherited a team that featured only six players following the defections of two returning players and two promising recruits.

The Bonnies went 7-21 last year, the modest success mostly the result of star point guard Marques Green, who has since graduated.

This year's roster is much more raw, the most experienced player being guard Ahmad Smith. But there is promise in sophomore guard Tyler Relph, a former New York State Mr. Basketball, who's sitting out this season after transferring from West Virginia last spring.

"You could look at it and cringe," Relph said, referring to the Bonnies' record. "I've got next year, and I'm just looking forward to it ... I see 1-12, it just makes me want to come shoot and work harder."

I look forward to the future."

It can't come soon enough for some, particularly in a tight community in which

there are strictly two seasons: basketball season, and the period leading to basketball season.

"I started going to games in 1946, when my father started taking me, so it takes a lot to discourage me," said Gram, if he thinks

Gram was asked if he thinks the Bonnies will turn things around.

He looked up from his plate. "Not this year," he said.

# Tucker helps Texas to upset of Oklahoma State

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — After coming up with a big win, the Texas Longhorns wondered if their top scorer would be with them the rest of the season.

P.J. Tucker, who spent most of the first half on the bench in foul trouble, scored 15 points after the break and freshman point guard Daniel Gibson had 27 points and 10 rebounds in No. 15 Texas' 75-61 victory over No. 5 Oklahoma State on Monday night.

Tucker, a sophomore forward, is facing academic issues that could make him ineligible for the spring semester, which is to start Tuesday. That means the important Big 12 win could be his last game.

Tucker and Texas coach Rick Barnes wouldn't comment on his status after the game. For now, the Longhorns can at least take comfort in the fact that Gibson appears ready to take over Tucker's role if needed.



"It really motivated us," Gibson said. "It really gives guys the opportunity to step up and do big things. It was a confidence boost."

Especially for Gibson, who scored 17 in the first half as the Longhorns built a 12-point lead. Tucker's clutch play down the stretch — he was 9-for-9 from the free-throw line — helped stifle a brief Oklahoma State rally. Texas — which also played without 6-foot-10 freshman center LaMarcus Aldridge, who is out indefinitely with a knee injury — went 25-for-28 from the line.

The Longhorns hardly missed Tucker when he wasn't on the floor in the first half.

Gibson hit a pair of three-pointers and routinely snaked through

the Cowboys' defense for open shots. He scored six points in a 15-3 Texas run that closed the first half.

Oklahoma State (13-2, 3-1) was plagued by foul trouble all night. Starters Joey Graham and Terrence Crawford both fouled out with more than eight minutes to play.

Ivan McFarlin scored 19 to lead the Cowboys.

The Longhorns, the highest-scoring team in the Big 12, forced 10 turnovers in the first half and Gibson turned two of them into fast-break layups. Texas held the Cowboys scoreless for six minutes and built a 39-27 halftime lead.

A 10-0 Oklahoma State run to open the second quickly cut the lead to two, but fouls continued to hinder the Cowboys. Crawford and Graham both picked up their fourth about 20 seconds apart.

Tucker finally did some dam-

age when he ended the Cowboys' run with his first basket, a tough layup in the lane, and Crawford fouled out. Tucker then fought his way around two Cowboys under the basket to free a sharp pass to Kenton Paulino, whose three-point shot pushed the lead to 46-39 before Gibson made it a 10-point cushion again with another three.

**No. 16 Connecticut 77, Seton Hall 68:** At East Rutherford, N.J., Josh Boone scored 20 points under Connecticut's frontcourt dominated on an off-night by the guards.

Freshman Rudy Gay added 18 points and Charlie Villanueva had 16 for Connecticut (11-3, 3-1 Big East), which won for the 11th time in 12 games against Seton Hall despite going 0-for-6 from three-point range.

Andre Sweet had 22 points for the Pirates (8-7, 0-4), who lost their fourth straight and are off to their worst conference start since going 0-7 in 1985-86.



**Texas' P.J. Tucker, right, scored 15 points in Monday's victory but might be academically ineligible for the rest of the season.**

# NHL union to meet for first time in more than a month

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — For the first time in more than a month, a group of officials from the NHL and the players' association will meet Wednesday on what could be a last-ditch effort to save the hockey season.

"We think it is appropriate and hopefully useful to engage in these discussions at this time," Ted Saskin, the union's senior director, said Monday. "We are not meeting to present a new proposal and remain committed to reaching a fair deal that does not include a salary cap."

## Session could be last-ditch effort to save season

Monday marked the 124th day of the lockout. So far, the NHL has resisted announcing a drop-dead date in which a collective bargaining agreement must be made to save this season. But with 650 regular-season games plus this year's All-Star Game, already canceled, it appears that time is short to make a deal.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and players' association executive director Bob Goodenow, who have butted heads throughout the process, are expected to sit out this session. The idea to

meet in a smaller group was hatched by players' association president Trevor Linden.

Linden, Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge will represent the players. Calgary Flames player Harley Hotchkiss, the chairman of the NHL's board of governors; Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer; and outside counsel Bob Butterman, will be present for the owners.

The NHL is not expected to make a new proposal at the meeting, either.

The sides have not met since

Dec. 14 when the NHL rejected the union's proposal — made five days earlier. A counteroffer made by the league also was rejected by the players during that session in Toronto.

The players' association got talks restarted in December, after three months of silence, with a proposal centered on an immediate 24-percent salary roll-back on all existing contracts. Owners rejected that plan and countered with a salary-cap structured offer.

The NHLPA is adamant that it

will never accept a salary cap. The union's offer featured a luxury-tax and revenue-sharing system.

Bettman has said that he has no interest in a luxury tax. During the 103-day lockout that disrupted the 1994-95 season, an agreement was reached on Jan. 11, 1995, allowing for a 48-game season that began nine days later. If the season is wiped out, it would mark the first time in 86 years that the Stanley Cup wasn't awarded. A flu epidemic canceled the 1919-20 final series between Montreal and Seattle. No North American sports league has lost an entire season due to a labor dispute.

# Several sign, avoid arbitration

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Instead of swapping salary proposals, Alfonso Soriano and Cesar Izturis were among 16 players who avoided arbitration by agreeing to deals with their clubs.

Soriano got a \$7.5 million, one-year contract with Texas, and Izturis agreed to a \$9.9 million, one-year deal with Los Angeles on Monday.

Three Atlanta Braves — shortstop Rafael Furcal (\$5.6 million), closer Dan Kolb (\$3.4 million) and reliever Chris Reitsma (\$1.65 million) — and three Florida Marlins right-handers — A.J. Burnett (\$3.65 million), Guillermo Mota (\$2.6 million) and Tim Lincecum (\$3.50 million) — also got one-year deals.

Seventy players remained on track to exchange figures with their teams Tuesday, but many more were expected to agree to contracts before the swap.

Houston ace Roger Clemens, who still hasn't decided whether to pitch this year or retire, is expected to submit the largest request. Clemens, coming off his record seventh Cy Young Award, could top the record request of \$18.5 million set by Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter in 2001. The Dodgers' Eric Gagne and the Astros' Lance Berkman also were set to exchange figures with their clubs.

One free agent agreed to a contract Monday — second baseman

## Baseball roundup

Roberto Alomar accepted a one-year deal from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. The 12-time All-Star, who must pass a physical before the deal is finalized, hit just 263 with four homers and 24 RBIs in 56 games for Arizona and the Chicago White Sox last season, when he was sidelined from April to June 22 after breaking his right hand when he was hit by a pitch.

Also, Carlos Delgado's agent said the free-agent first baseman has possible teams to four: Baltimore, Florida, The New York Mets and Texas. The agent, David Sloane, said he planned to meet with the Marlins again Tuesday.

Ernie Llerenas, acquired by Texas from the New York Yankees in the Alex Rodriguez trade last February, made \$5.4 million last season, when he hit 289 with 28 homers and 91 RBIs. Several teams have inquired about a trade for Soriano.

Izturis, a switch-hitter who turns 25 next month, had by far his best season last year, hitting .288 with 193 hits, four homers, 62 RBIs and 90 runs. He stole 25 bases in 34 attempts and won his first Gold Glove, committing only 10 errors.

Izturis, who made \$358,500 last season, receives a \$300,000 signing bonus and will earn \$2.05 mil-

lion this year, \$3.1 million in 2006, and \$4.15 million in 2007. Los Angeles has a 2008 option at \$5.85 million with a \$300,000 buy-out.

San Francisco infielder Pedro Feliz agreed to a \$6.1 million, two-year deal, and Arizona left-hander Randy Choate settled for a \$1.3 million, two-year contract.

Cincinnati agreed to one-year contracts with outfielders Adam Dunn (\$4.6 million) and Austin Knepper (\$930,000).

Also getting one-year deals were St. Louis right-hander Jason Marquis (\$3 million), Baltimore outfielder Luis Matos (\$1,025,000), Angels outfielder Jeff DaVanon (\$925,000) and Houston right-hander Brandon Duckworth (\$500,000).

In a deal late Tuesday, left-handed reliever J.C. Romero agreed to a \$3.7 million, two-year contract with Minnesota.

In deals announced Tuesday: Right-hander Tomo Ohka agreed to a \$2.75 million, one-year contract with the Washington Nationals, a raise of \$142,500.

The Texas Rangers agreed to a one-year contract with outfielder Gary Matthews Jr.

Matthews, 30, batted 275 with 11 home runs and 36 RBIs in 87 games for Texas last season.

The Colorado Rockies locked up two key parts of their rotation, agreeing to contracts with right-hander Jason Jennings and lefty Joe Kennedy.

# Teen Invited to play in LPGA Championship

The Associated Press

**HAVRE DE GRACE, Md.** — Michelle Wie accepted an invitation Monday to play in the LPGA Championship, making it likely the 15-year-old golfer will compete in all four of the women's majors this year.

Wie and other top amateurs like Paula Creamer and Jane Park have not played the McDonald's LPGA Championship because it was far from the nearest PGA Tour event. But the tournament expanded its field from 144 to 150 players, offering one of those additional spots to a "leading amateur."

Three extra exemptions will go to a top player from the Korea LPGA, the Japan LPGA and the Ladies European Tour, and the remaining three will go to the next two LPGA Tour players from a priority list.

The LPGA Championship will be played June 9-12 at Bull Creek.

Wie already accepted an amateur exemption to the Kraft Nabisco Championship on March 24-27, and she is exempt to the U.S. Women's Open in late June because she tied for 13th a year ago.

She is expected to get an exemption to the Women's British Open at Royal Birkdale in July.

Wie is coming off her second appearance on the PGA Tour, shooting rounds of 75-74 in the Sony Open to miss the cut by seven shots.

## Suspended QB Marcus Vick rejoins Hokies

**BLACKSBURG, Va.** — Virginia Tech quarterback Marcus Vick was cleared Monday to rejoin the team after being suspended this season because of a night of drinking with underage girls.

The younger brother of Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick joined his teammates for a meeting, re-enrolled at the university and started classes. The university and head coach Frank Beamer cleared the 20-year-old of returning to the team after football-related activities after being suspended for the fall semester.

Marcus Vick was arrested in February 2004, along with teammates Mike Inoh and Brenden Hill, after an encounter with 14-

## Sports briefs

and 15-year-old girls at the quarterback's apartment in Blacksburg.

Vick avoided jail by pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge.

Vick also pleaded guilty to reckless driving and no contest to marijuana possession after a traffic stop last summer.

"I'm excited to be back — I missed this place," Vick said in a statement. "I know that I hurt a lot of people who only want to see me succeed. I'd like to try to make that up to them. I'm appreciative to the university and Coach Beamer for giving me this opportunity. Now I'm ready to put the past behind me and concentrate on the future."

## Suspended Pitt guard charged with burglary, simple assault

**PITTSBURGH** — Suspended Pittsburgh guard Yurt Demetrius faces burglary and simple assault charges after allegedly entering a former girlfriend's apartment twice through a bedroom window and hitting her with a closed fist, university police said Monday.

Demetrius, suspended indefinitely by coach Jamie Dixon after being beaten Sunday, will have a preliminary hearing Thursday.

Dixon said Sunday that Demetrius would not practice while serving the suspension, but did not mention the player's arrest.

## World Cup tickets to go on sale Feb. 1

**HAMBURG, Germany** — Tickets for the 2006 World Cup go on sale online Feb. 1, with 850,000 of the 3.2 million seats available in the first stage.

Each fan will be able to order up to four tickets for seven games each. Applications will be processed in lottery order for the first two months of sales. Tickets for the 64 games also will be offered when World Cup qualifications resume in May and after the final draw.

The tournament begins June 9, 2006, in Munich and ends a month later in Berlin.

For more information online: [www.FIFAworldcup.com](http://www.FIFAworldcup.com)

# Thai hockey, Saudi soccer help tsunami relief

The Associated Press

**BANGKOK, Thailand** — The NHL donated \$33,800 toward tsunami relief efforts in Thailand as part of a charity hockey game by Bangkok-based players.

A team of players from the United States, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Japan and Thailand defeated a Canadian squad 7-0. The NHL donated \$2,600 for each goal.

"We've played a lot of hockey here for more than 10 years, but this is the team's proudest moment," Bangkok Flying Farangs defenseman Kevin Hill said.

Players from the Farangs (the Thai word for foreigners) and the Thai word "Hockey" League scrambled to put together the event to aid the Red Cross Thailand's efforts to help thousands of survivors in the country's tsunami-devastated south.

A capacity crowd of 700 attended Sunday night's game at Bangkok's Central World Plaza rink, donating about \$5,000 at the door. Family, friends and hockey fans in North America and Europe were asked to donate through an account set up by the Canadian Embassy.

Hill, who is from Nova Scotia, said that with all the contributions the team would surpass its goal of raising \$50,000.

Also, Saudi Arabia's soccer association Tuesday pledged \$250,000 to a tsunami solidarity fund set up by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation. The pledge was announced as a Saudi delegation visited FIFA's headquarters in Switzerland.

Five of the Farangs did volunteer work after the Dec. 26 disaster, retrieving bodies, meeting grief-stricken relatives and aiding the identification process.





# Suns finish four-game trip on the low road

The Associated Press

The Phoenix Suns are heading home with their high-speed offense dragging, their point guard hurting and their losses mounting. It was a miserable road trip for the NBA's best team.

Tayshaun Prince scored a career-high 26 points to lead the Detroit Pistons past slumping Phoenix 94-80 on Monday, dropping the Suns to 0-4 on their road trip and 31-8 for the season.

"It's time to go home. It has been a tough road trip," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Obviously, they beat us on the boards, beat us all day, beat us up — beat us in anything you want to talk about."

The Suns were held to a season-low point total without Steve Nash, who was sidelined for a second consecutive game with a bruised left thigh. The point guard hopes to play Wednesday at home against Memphis.

"Obviously, their team is different without Steve Nash," Detroit guard Chauncey Billups said. "But I just thought we played good."

While the Suns have struggled recently, the Pistons have started to return to the form that led them to the NBA championship last season, winning for the sixth straight time — and 11th in 13.

Prince has played a big role in the run, averaging 23 points in his last three games. He made the winning shot Saturday against Philadelphia.

The last three weeks, he has been a stretch as good as any young player is going to have," Pistons coach Larry Brown said.

Detroit's Richard Hamilton scored 16 points, Rasheed Wallace and Antonio McDyess each had 13 points and eight rebounds, and Ben Wallace added 11 points and 15 rebounds.

Joe Johnson led the Suns with 17 points. Amare Stoudemire scored 16 and Quentin Richardson had 13, but the Pistons outscored Phoenix 57-41 and had 13 more offensive rebounds.

**Jazz 102, Lakers 94:** At Los Angeles, Matt Harpring scored 19 points, Raja Bell had 14 of his 16 in the fourth quarter and Utah



Suns, from left, Shawn Marion, Quentin Richardson, Joe Johnson, and Amare Stoudemire sit on the bench during the fourth quarter of their fourth straight loss to Detroit on Thursday. Detroit held Phoenix to a season-low point total in its 94-80 victory.

beat the Lakers for just its fourth win in 18 games.

Caron Butler led the Lakers with 26 points and six rebounds.

The Lakers played their second game without star Kobe Bryant, who severely sprained his right ankle last Thursday. Team spokesman John Black said because the game that Bryant will be sidelined at least two more weeks.

**Bulls 88, Knicks 86:** At New York, Ben Gordon scored on a driving 8-footer with one-tenth of a second remaining to give Chicago its seventh straight win, the Bulls' longest winning streak since the 1997-98 team won 13 in a row.

Stephon Marbury had 25 points to lead the Knicks, who have lost seven of eight.

**Bucks 99, Bobcats 92:** Michael Redd scored 27 points and Dan Gadzuric had 13 points and 10 re-

bounds to help visiting Milwaukee break its four-game losing streak.

Emeka Okafor had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the slumping Bobcats, who have dropped five straight.

**76ers 95, Hornets 91:** Kenny Thomas had 21 points and 15 rebounds, Allen Iverson scored 29 and the 76ers nearly wasted a 25-point lead in the fourth quarter before beating visiting New Orleans.

New Orleans, playing without injured leading scorer Baron Davis, was led by Lee Nallion's 23 points.

**Nets 85, Hawks 84:** Jason Kidd scored 19 of his 23 points in the second half, and New Jersey ended a four-game losing streak with a win in Atlanta.

Vince Carter also scored, 23 points for New Jersey, which broke a five-game road losing

streak.

All Harrington led Atlanta with 22 points.

**Kings 89, Clippers 83:** At Los Angeles, Chris Webber scored 23 points and Curtino Mobley hit a clutch three-pointer with 59.6 seconds left for Sacramento.

Mobley scored 19 points in his second game with Sacramento since being acquired from Orlando for Doug Christie on Jan. 10. Sacramento has won four straight.

Elton Brand had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Los Angeles.

**Raptors 100, Timberwolves 91:** Donyell Marshall made six three-pointers and scored 23 points, leading Toronto to its first win in Minnesota since beginning NBA play in 1995-96.

Rafael Alston had 18 points and 15 assists for the Raptors, who snapped an 11-game road losing streak, one shy of a franchise

record.

Wally Szczerbiak led the Timberwolves with 25 points for Minnesota, which fell to 3-7 in January.

**Grizzlies 99, Rockets 80:** At Memphis, Tenn., Stromile Swift scored 18 points and Jason Williams added 16 to lead the Grizzlies to their ninth win in 10 games.

Tracy McGrady had 28 points for Houston, which had its four-game winning streak end.

**Warriors 107, Nuggets 97:** At Oakland, Calif., Jason Richardson did everything in his first game back from a sprained ankle, scoring a career-high 42 points and matching his career best with eight assists to help Golden State end its season-long nine-game losing streak.

Carmelo Anthony had 24 points and eight rebounds in Denver's seventh loss in eight games.

## Bryant doesn't have fracture, still out two more weeks

The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Lakers star Kobe Bryant will be sidelined at least two more weeks with a severely sprained right ankle.

Team spokesman John Black said before the Lakers faced the Utah Jazz on Monday night that the NBA's second-leading scorer was examined earlier in the day by team physician Dr. Steve Lombardo and foot specialist Philip Kwong.

A CT scan confirmed there was no fracture.

"Kobe will be re-evaluated in approximately one week," Black said. "He has made improvement. He still can't put weight on his right foot."

Black said there was no target date for

### NBA briefs

Bryant's return.

"We're just saying a minimum of two weeks," Black said. "We'll have a better idea next week."

Should Bryant return in two weeks, he'll miss a minimum of six more games and eight overall.

Bryant, hurt in the first quarter of Thursday night's victory over Cleveland, was placed on the injured list Saturday — before the Lakers beat Golden State.

"We were hoping for far better, but that's the way it is in this league," Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich said regarding Bryant's status. "You can always hope. I'm not a medical guy."

Tomjanovich said he spoke with Bryant early Monday.

"He said it was still throbbing," the coach said, adding Bryant seemed to be in good spirits.

When asked what the Lakers do differently without Bryant, Tomjanovich replied: "We just run different plays. There's plays where he's the focal point. Obviously, we're not running a lot of them."

Lamar Odom and Caron Butler have picked up the slack since Bryant was injured.

"It could have been more serious," Butler said. "His spirits are high — it's getting better. We're just praying for him, hope he gets better soon."

Bryant, averaging 27.5 points per game,

was injured when he landed on Cleveland forward Ira Newble's right foot while going for a rebound under the Cavaliers' basket.

Rookie Sasah Vujacic started Saturday and Monday in Bryant's guard spot.

### Magic activate center DeClercq

**ORLANDO, Fla.** — Magic center Andrew DeClercq was activated from the injured list Tuesday after being sidelined all season because of surgery on his right knee.

To make roster room, center Mario Kasun was sent to the injured list with left knee tendinitis. The rookie averaged 2.6 points and 2.5 rebounds in 25 games.

DeClercq has averaged 4.8 points and 4.3 rebounds during his nine-year career.

# Steelers expect improved play from Roethlisberger

## Mistakes will be more costly this week

BY ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

### PITTSBURGH

Alan Faneca may be trying to motivate Ben Roethlisberger again. The offensive lineman said the Pittsburgh Steelers badly need Roethlisberger to upgrade his play for Sunday's AFC championship game against New England, after the rookie quarterback's errors nearly led to a play-off loss to the New York Jets.

"He's going to have to pick his game up," Faneca said Monday. "We're all going to have to pick our game up, and it's going to take our best effort of the season to win this week."

Roethlisberger, the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year, threw two interceptions — one for a touchdown and another creating Doug Brien's potential game-winning field goal try — and got nothing going as the Jets scored 17 consecutive points in the second and third quarters.

The Steelers came back to win 20-17 in overtime Saturday, but only after Brien missed two field goal tries in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter.

"He was off a little bit, but we were all off a little bit as an offense," Faneca said.

Faneca wasn't singling out the rookie, but said that kind of quarterback play won't be good enough. "Not after the Super Bowl champion Patriots held NFL MVP Peyton Manning's high-output Colts offense to a field goal in a 20-3 win Sunday."

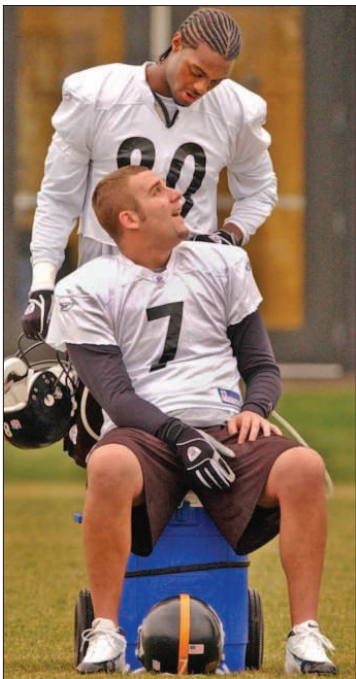
Still, Faneca's motivating words were reminiscent of those the day after former starting quarterback Tommy Maddox injured an elbow Sept. 19 in Baltimore, making Roethlisberger the starter by default.

Then, Faneca said he wasn't overly excited about going into a game with "some little young kid who's just out of college" rather than a veteran like Maddox. Roethlisberger went on to lead the Steelers to a 13-3 victory in Miami.

If Roethlisberger picked up a Sunday newspaper, and he insists he doesn't, he would have read fan comments about how a young Maddox to replace him despite an unequalled 14-0 record as a starter.

"He had a rough game, people were really down on him and said he played bad, but he's a young quarterback, and he has a lot in his face right now," linebacker James Farrior said. "But he's such a good player, he knows how to handle every situation like he's done it all year, and he's sure do the same this week."

Especially since the Patriots will likely try to be in the rookie's



Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) suffered through a miserable game against the Jets, but Pittsburgh still won. He likely won't be as lucky this week if he has a similar performance against the Patriots.

face all night, something they didn't do in their 34-20 loss in Pittsburgh on Oct. 31. Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to Plaxico Burress as the Steelers opened a 21-3 lead in the first quarter and went on to end New England's 21-game winning streak.

Faneca thinks Roethlisberger will be just fine if he quickly moves on to the Patriots and doesn't keep replaying the mistakes against New York.

"Everybody always wants to know how he handles the pressure, the setbacks," Faneca said. "Just like everybody else, nobody likes it, but you've got to think about it for a minute, brush it off and move on to the next play."

That's how Ben's been handling things all year."

The Steelers don't sound overly concerned that, unlike the other NFL division champions coming off a first-week bye — the Patriots, Falcons and Eagles — they struggled in their playoff opener. The Jets nearly won despite not scoring a touchdown offensively in either game against Pittsburgh this season.

The Steelers' message seems to be: This week, not last week, is the week they must play well. "We have all the confidence in the world in Ben," cornerback Deshaun Townsend said. "We were 15-1 during the season because of him. He's a very confident guy, very poised for a rookie and I'm sure he'll do fine."

# Marine at Iwakuni win overall award in NFL Challenge

Stars and Stripes

The recently completed NFL season proved to be profitable for a Marine Corps master sergeant assigned to Iwakuni Air Station in Japan.

James "Woody" Biggs, 37, of Folsom, Calif., correctly guessed the outcome of 167 out of 254 selected games in the 2004 NFL season, outdistancing 1,936 other entrants for the grand prize of \$1,000 in the NFL Challenge, a season-long contest sponsored by Stars and Stripes and Oconocum.

"I was shocked, to be honest with you," said Biggs, assigned to Marine Aircraft Group-12.

The contest began at the start of the NFL season. Each week, entrants picked winners of each NFL game, while also putting a number of points on each game that indicated confidence in each selection.

Biggs won the first week of the contest, garnering a \$100 gift certificate courtesy of Team-Store.com, and remained in the top five the rest of the way. But he confessed to worry about "two

guys with me who were really good competition."

In Week 17 of the 17-week season, he said, he "picked a couple of games that went sour," including San Diego over Indianapolis, a game the Colts won 34-31 in overtime. He fell to sixth place at that juncture.

"When Week 17 came up, I kept saying to myself, I gotta nail it," Biggs said. He "picked 10 of the 16 games correctly" but I put the right amount of points on the right amount of games and managed to get lucky," he said.

Biggs, who has played the NFL Challenge all three years it has been contested, became the third straight overall winner stationed in Japan. He also became the first overall winner to snare one of the weekly prizes.

Though originally from California, Biggs proudly proclaims himself a "lifelong Pittsburgh Steelers fan" and entered the NFL Challenge under the pseudonym "SteelFrogWood."

So what does Biggs plan to do with the \$1,000 prize?

"To pay my bills," he said. "Christmas."

# Sherman moving on with diminished role

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Mike Sherman plans to make the best of his diminished role with the Green Bay Packers.

Sherman will stay on as coach after being stripped of his general manager duties over the weekend. He said Monday that he'd like to remain in Green Bay beyond 2005, when his contract expires, but stressed that was up to new boss Ted Thompson.

Sherman said he never considered quitting after losing the GM title.

"I've never resigned from anything in my life. I'm not about to do it over this. I still have the best job in the National Football League," Sherman said.

Sherman is due \$3.2 million in 2005, and team President Bob Harlan said that salary won't be slashed with his decreased duties.

In his first public comments since the front-office shake-up, Sherman said Monday he was proud of the job he did as GM but refused to criticize Harlan's decision to demote him.

"I think as any competitor, you hate to let go of anything," Sherman said. "I would be lying to say that that was an easy thing for me. But after you digest everything and you understand the reasons for why things are done, it is what it is and you move forward."

Ravens hire Fassel, Neuheisel

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The Baltimore Ravens completed a shake-up in their coaching staff Tuesday by hiring Jim Fassel as offensive coordinator, Rick Neuheisel as quarterback coach and

### NFL briefs

promoting Rex Ryan to defensive coordinator.

Fassel, who coached the New York Giants from 1997-03, worked as a senior consultant to the Ravens this season. He wanted another head coaching job, but he did not receive an offer and will now try to improve the league's 31st-ranked offense. He replaces Matt Cavanaugh, who resigned under pressure.

Neuheisel has been out of coaching since being fired by the University of Washington in June 2003 for participating in a high-stakes basketball pool. After impressing the Ravens while interviewing for the job as offensive coordinator, he was hired for the task of refining the skills of quarterback Kyle Boller, a role Fassel filled last season.

Ryan takes over for Mike Nolan, who left Monday to become head coach of the San Francisco 49ers. Ryan has coached the Ravens' defensive line coach since 1999.

Parcells ousts two assistants

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells took the first big step in his offseason overhaul of the Dallas Cowboys' coaching staff Tuesday by dumping two assistants: offensive line coach George Warhop and kicking coach Steve Hoffman.

Warhop's unit was among the team's biggest disappointments this season, and he said nearly two weeks ago that he'd been told he would be let go. He'll be replaced by tight end coach Tony Sparano, who was Cleveland's offensive line coach in 2000.

# Atlanta's potent running game is a no deal

## Veteran RB backs up stellar regular season with record-setting game against Rams

BY STEVE HENSON  
Los Angeles Times

ATLANTA — One of the NFL's unwritten commandments is to never trust anyone over 30 to carry the football.

Yet in his first game since reaching the age that qualifies running backs as senior citizens, Warrick Dunn established an Atlanta Falcons postseason record with 142 yards rushing Saturday in a 47-17 victory over the St. Louis Rams.

Afterward, beaming Falcons players made their way from the field to the locker room as fans shook their hands and slapped their backs. All the players had a spring in their gait after advancing to the NFC championship game, but only Dunn was in a full sprint.

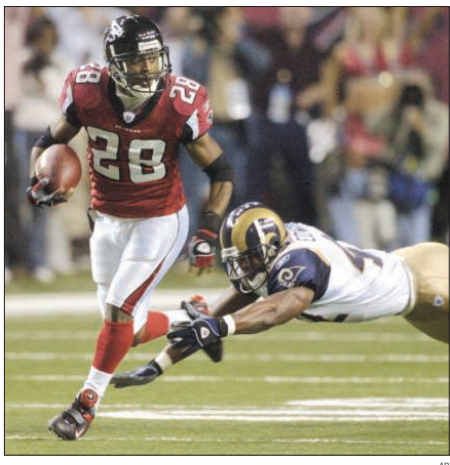
"Look at him, after all those carries," a woman exclaimed. "He can't stop running." Why should he? Dunn still has lightning in his stride and lightness to his step. For the first time in years, he doesn't feel like he's carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders.

He no longer is made to feel like a payroll burden and the owner's pet, not since coach Dan Reeves was fired with three games left in the 2003 season.

He no longer feels obligated to support his five younger siblings who were left for years after his mother, a Baton Rouge, La., post officer, was shot and killed while working a second job as a security guard in 1993. His three brothers and two sisters all are in college or have graduated.

And he certainly doesn't want to stop until a Super Bowl is reached, not after missing out on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' title run in 2002. He signed with the Falcons before that season for \$28.5 million over six years, having built a strong résumé in five seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

So Dunn bounded into the locker room, changed quickly and paused only to put the victory in perspective. This was his ninth playoff game, and several were major disappointments, including an eight-carry, 1-yard performance in a loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in 2000. He had averaged 41 yards a game and less than 3.0 yards



Eight-year NFL veteran Warrick Dunn (28) rushed for a Falcons playoff-record 142 yards in Saturday's 47-17 rout of the St. Louis Rams. Dunn led Atlanta's top-ranked rushing offense (167 yards per game) with 1,106 rushing yards and nine touchdowns this season.

per carry in the postseason until the breakthrough against the Rams.

"I had never been a huge factor in a playoff game," he said. "I wanted to come out and make some plays to help our team win."

Someone needed him about his age — he turned 30 on Jan. 5. "I feel young," he said. "My legs are fresh, and I'm just having fun."

Dunn had more than 100 yards in the first quarter and scored on runs of 62 and 19 yards, showing that a defense

will pay for being overly concerned with explosive quarterback Michael Vick.

"When you have a guy like that rolling one way and we're going the other, the defense tends to go with him," Dunn said. "That created some running lanes that I was able to take advantage of early."

His teammates talked about his leader-

ship and maturity, terms that can carry the subtext of over-the-hill. Rather than take umbrage and point out that Curtis Martin, Marshall Faulk and Emmitt Smith are also 30-something tailbacks, Dunn took the compliments at face value.

"Guys were so anxious during practice this week they were fighting a little bit," he said. "I tried to help cut the tension. Even in pregame, guys had to calm down. I was getting tired before the game even started."

Soon the Rams were tired of chasing him into the end zone. It was the kind of performance Falcons owner Arthur Blank envisioned when he signed Dunn.

Reeves bit his tongue, but he said his feelings clear when he used a first-round pick in 2002 to draft running back T.J. Duckett rather than fill the team's more pressing need at receiver.

Blank was said to be smitten by Dunn because of his community involvement, especially the Home for the Holidays charity program that has enabled single mothers from Baton Rouge to St. Petersburg and Tampa, Fla., to become first-time home-

owners.

Blank, who co-founded Home Depot in 1978, soon partnered with Dunn, supplying furnishings in the homes provided to low-income mothers.

Dunn makes the down payments.

"I put them in a position to succeed, to become stable, to try to better their lives, move forward and better their kids' lives," Dunn said. "It's not about me, it's about a mother and her family."

He began the program in 1997, his rookie season, after signing for \$8.8 million as a first-round pick out of Florida State. Helping single mothers had been his dream since his own mother, Cpl. Betty Dunn Smothers of the Baton Rouge Police Department, was shot and killed while escorting a supermarket manager to make a night bank deposit.

Dunn, the oldest of her children, was an 18-year-old high school senior. He thought his dream of playing college football had been dashed, but his grandmother had the help of the Baton Rouge police and other community services to ensure his brothers and sisters were cared for, and he went to Florida State.

In his first year in the NFL, his three youngest siblings moved to Tampa with him.

"Sometimes after practice some of the guys would go out, and I couldn't," Dunn said. "I'd be like, 'I gotta go make dinner for everybody, make sure they do their homework.' They were leaning on me for emotional support, and every now and then I'd give financial benefits."

Now the youngest of his brothers and sisters is 20 and all are self-sufficient. Dunn's attention has turned to providing guidance on the field.

His last year (retired fullback) Bobby Christian was maybe 70 percent of our leadership and Warrick 30 percent," Falcons running backs coach Olin Wilson said. "Now, he's probably 100 percent."

"Before, maybe he only spoke if he was asked questions. Now, he starts conversations and asks questions. 'What if we do this?' How can we do that better?"

Dunn racked up his third 1,000-yard season in 2004, and he got better as the season progressed. His performance against the Rams was his fourth 1,000-yard game in the past five. Only 5 feet 8, 190 pounds, he started all 16 regular-season games for the first time and set career highs with nine rushing touchdowns and 265 carries.

"I think the misimpression people have about Warrick is that because of his size, he's an outside runner," coach Jim Mora said. "But he's not. He's so good between the tackles because he can find that crease and he can hit it quickly. That's one reason why he's so effective."

"And another is that he doesn't stop running — until he reaches the locker room."



9 p.m. Sunday:  
AFN-A, AFN-P, AFN-Radio  
Game time is Central European.

## Déjà vu: Patriots take momentum into Pittsburgh

DÉJÀ VU, FROM BACK PAGE

Yes, New England lost in Pittsburgh, 34-20 on Oct. 31, ending a league-record 21-game winning streak. But Dillon missed that game with a thigh injury and the Patriots rushed for just 5 yards on six attempts.

The spread also reflects the quarterback discrepancy.

Ben Roethlisberger is 14-0 as a starter, eight games better than the previous record for consecutive victories by a rookie QB.

But he is a rookie and the Steelers beat the Jets 20-17 on overtime Saturday despite Big Ben, not because of him. His two interceptions were disastrous — one was returned for a touchdown, the other led to a 43-yard missed field goal by Doug Brien that would have ended Pittsburgh's season if it was good.

Tom Brady, on the other hand, has won all seven postseason games he's started, although he got hurt during the Patriots' title game upset in Pittsburgh three years ago and Drew Bledsoe

came in to throw a TD pass that helped win the game.

That's not to say Pittsburgh doesn't have a chance.

The Steelers gained 417 yards against the Patriots in the regular-season game, 221 on the ground. If they can run again (a better possibility if Seymour is out or hampered), they could control the clock the way the Patriots did against the Colts.

But New England's loss in that game came at a time when it was losing momentum, likely under the pressure of continuing their

record streak (yes, even the Patriots occasionally feel pressure). Now they're picking up momentum, as they seem to do at this time every year.

They're also conscious that next season might not be so easy because they are likely to have a break in new coordinators to replace Charlie Weiss on offense and Romeo Crennel on defense.

Weis already has taken the head coaching job at Notre Dame and has been spending time away from both the Patriots and Fighting Irish. Crennel seems set for



Game time is Central European.

the head coaching job in Cleveland, although he can't accept it or do any work for the Browns until the Patriots' season ends.

The winning look now, that's not likely to be until after the Super Bowl.



## SPORTS



Roddick finishes strong in first match;  
U.S. Open champ Kuznetsova says  
she's innocent of doping, Page 29



Jeff Reed (3) bailed out the Steelers with a 33-yard field goal in overtime to beat the Jets on Saturday. Despite winning 15 consecutive games and entering the AFC title game with a 16-1 record and home-field advantage, Pittsburgh starts the week as a 3-point underdog to New England.

## New England has the look of a champion once again

BY DAVE GOLDBERG  
The Associated Press

**Y**es, the New England Patriots go to Pittsburgh to face a team that beat them in the regular season and has a 16-1 record with 15 straight wins.

But no, the Patriots probably won't lose to the Steelers in next Sunday's AFC title game. Nor are they likely to lose in the Super Bowl on Feb. 6, probably against Philadelphia.

In fact, after winning two of the past three NFL titles, going 14-2 for the second straight season and shutting down Peyton Manning as no one has done since they did it a year ago, it makes you wonder what happened in 2002, when the Patriots missed the playoffs after finishing 9-7. Dismiss that season and they are a unique team for any era, especially this one.

"What are they going to do now, change the rules again?" Patriots linebacker Teddy Bruschi asked facetiously after Sunday's 20-3 triumph over Manning and the Colts. "Make a rule that we can't play in the snow?"

Technically, the NFL didn't change the rules after the Patriots shut down Manning a year



New England quarterback Tom Brady (above) improved to 7-0 in playoff games but will face the league's top-rated defense at Pittsburgh on Sunday.

ago in the AFC title game. They only added a "point of emphasis" for the officials, cracking down on bumping and grabbing receivers after Indy complained they were continuously mugged in that game.

That change had little effect Sunday.

Even with free-agent rookie Randall Gay, safety Asante Samuel and wide receiver Troy Brown doing most of the work at cornerback in place of the injured Ty Law and Tyrone Poole, Manning's three star wide receivers could rarely get open. All-Pro defensive lineman Richard Seymour, out with a knee injury, was hardly missed.

"Any other team that loses Pro Bowlers loses a lot," Manning



Pats coach Bill Belichick will have a new offensive coordinator next season and most likely will have to hire a defensive coordinator.

said after the game. "But the Patriots never seem to."

It wasn't all defense, especially after intermission during what coach Bill Belichick called "the best half we played this year."

Corey Dillon, whose acquisition by the Patriots may be as significant as Terrell Owens' was for Philadelphia, ran for 144 yards as New England had the ball for 38 minutes, limiting Manning's opportunities.

Dillon is probably the reason the Patriots are favored by three points on the road against the Steelers, very rare for a visitor in a championship contest. That's effectively six points — the Steelers would normally get three for having the home field.

SEE DÉJÀ VU ON PAGE 35



## Refreshed Dunn is leading Atlanta's playoff run into Philadelphia

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## Roethlisberger seeks home improvement in AFC title game

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## Spurs put emphatic end to Wizards' seven-game run

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## St. Bonaventure hoops struggling after scandals

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